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Anti-Adoption Bills*

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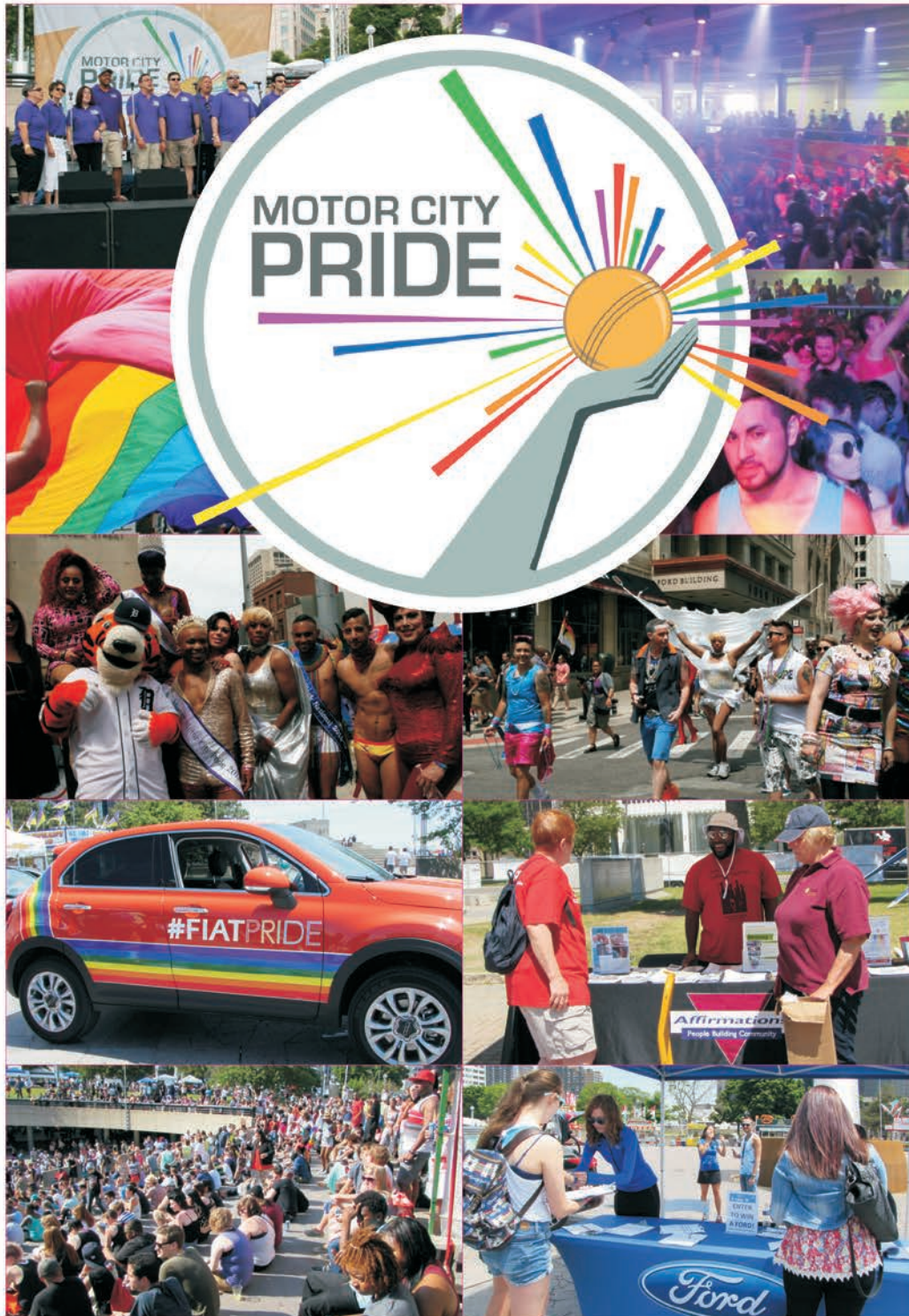
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Photo by Associated Press

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“When I see that there can be a ripple effect of positivity and change and helping people just because I identify as one thing or another, and I'm OK to talk about it, that's amazing. It's amazing that it takes that little to make that much of an impact.”

– Adam Lambert, pg. 18

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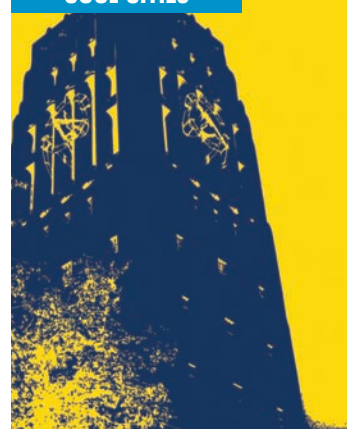


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## Snyder, Legislature Pass Litany Of Intolerant, Regressive Bills

Last week was especially bad for anyone in Michigan who cares about children, equality, justice, fairness and economic progress. Here is a litany of backwater, intolerant, anti-economic development bills passed in Michigan's legislature in just one week:

Snyder failed 13,000 children in foster care by limiting their access to loving and stable forever homes when he signed the “religious objection” adoption bills (**HB 4188-4190**). These bills were clearly aimed at same-sex couples, but they will also allow faith-based agencies that receive state funding to turn away people of other faiths, unmarried couples, mixed race couples – anyone who doesn't meet their standards.

The legislature passed and Snyder signed a bill that will allow the state to kick entire needy families off welfare cash assistance if one child in the family is chronically truant (**HB 4041**).

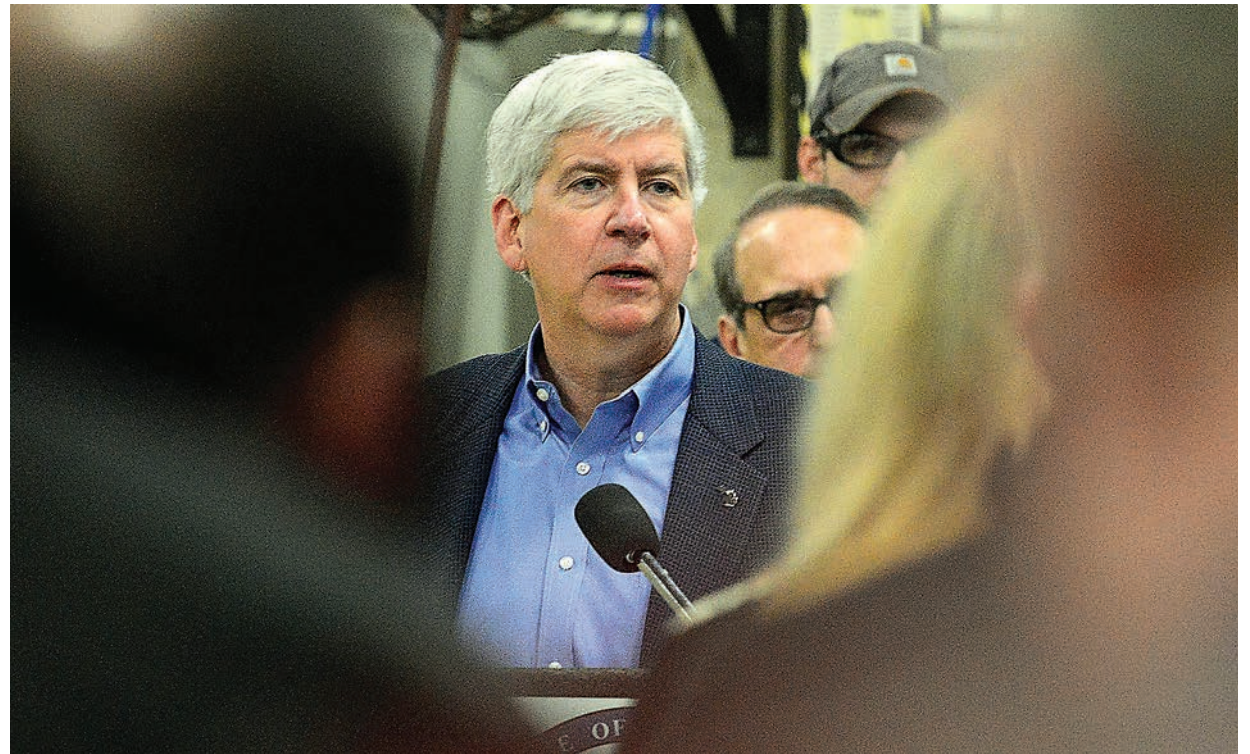
Part of House Speaker Kevin Cotter's road funding package approved by the House will raise taxes on the lowest income workers by eliminating the Earned Income Tax Credit (**HB 4609**).

The House voted to significantly cut economic development programs and divert that money to roads. Deep cuts are a shortsighted move that will hurt Michigan's ability to compete with other states for new business (**HB 4440**).

The Senate approved for consideration a measure to eliminate the entire Michigan Film Office (**HB 4122**). Eliminating the entire office, while 49 other states have one, would result in millions of dollars in lost revenue from the film industry.

The Senate passed the “Death Star” bill (**HB 4052**) that would stop local communities from being able to require employers to provide things like prevailing wage and sick days.

The Senate passed a bill to micromanage how schools teach children about the U.S. and Michigan constitutions (**SB-0211**). The bill, which passed on party lines, requires schools to teach the portions of the documents that mention religion.



Republican Gov. Rick Snyder. AP Photo.

# Snyder Signs RFRA-Style Adoption Bills Into Law

## Was Legislation Signed For Deal On Road Funding?

BY TODD HEYWOOD

**LANSING** — Gov. Rick Snyder has signed controversial legislation that would allow state funded adoption agencies to refuse services to potential adoptive families based on the agencies' “sincerely held religious or moral beliefs.” But the self-described data driven executive has been unable to provide any evidence — except two letters from religious adoption agencies — to show the legislation was necessary.

Senate and House Democrats generally opposed the legislation citing

constitutional issues. Also of concern was the replacement of what has been a standard in making child-in-care related decisions — the best interest of the child — with the agencies' own religious values. The new laws specifically allow agencies to refuse adoption services based on religious beliefs, even if an adoption would be in the best interest of the potential adoptive child.

On Monday, *Between The Lines* reported that Snyder may have signed the bills as part of a broader deal to fund roads.

“What we're being told by our corporate allies is there was never any serious doubt the governor was going to sign this bill,” said a source from a large LGBT organization. “We're told that he traded this for a road construction bill he wanted.”

A spokesperson for the governor denies this.

Despite repeated requests for data to support the governor's decision to sign the bills, which the ACLU and other

opponents have labeled a “religious freedom restoration act”-style adoption bill, Snyder's communications team would only provide two letters. One letter was penned by Bill Blacchiere, president of Bethany Christian Services; the other was authored by Paul Long, president of Michigan Catholic Conference.

“Yet the religious manner by which faith-based child placement agencies operate has become objectionable to those that do not value the diversity that comes with a statewide network of public and private placement providers,” Long wrote in his letter, after praising his agency's Catholic based faith operations. “Regrettably, administrative or judicial rulings, encouraged by efforts of adversarial organizations, have led to shuttering of numerous Catholic child placement agencies in other states and cities.”

And while it is true Catholic agencies have shuttered in other locations, it has been because they refused to follow the

See Snyder, page 6

# BTL Op-Ed: Snyder's Betrayal Takes Michigan A Giant Step Backward

If Republicans bargained away the chance for children to find loving homes in exchange for highway funding, then the GOP's twisted priorities have reached a new moral and ethical low.

Pure betrayal. That's the mildest phrase we can think of to describe Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's decision to sign three bills into law that will enshrine religious discrimination into our state statutes. Even as we prepare for a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that is likely to make marriage equality the law of the land, Snyder and his Republican allies in the legislature are scrambling to make sure their vile bigotry remains a plague on our community.

Last Thursday Snyder promised Between The Lines to "take a close look" at the legislation which will allow religious affiliated adoption agencies – paid with state tax dollars – to refuse adoption services to persons who violate the organizations' sincerely held religious or moral beliefs. He signed those bills less than 24 hours after they were placed in front of him. That's not a considered and thoughtful decision driven by data; that's a thoughtless, agenda driven decision.

BTL recently learned that Snyder may have traded his signature on these anti-LGBT bills for Republican votes on his roads funding legislation. If true, then it is confirmed that he believes we are expendable, literally disposable under the grinding wheels of bigotry.

In his press statements, Snyder maintains this legislation won't stop any adoptions. In fact, these bills will do worse. They will prevent children from going to homes that are in their best interest – the standard we should strive for in placing these vulnerable kids. This legislation is not about kids, it's about adults and their ideological agenda to make sure LGBTQ Michiganders are consistently reminded that they are, at best, second-class citizens in this state.

When pressed for data that the governor relied on to sign these bills, his communications team provided two letters. Both letters were from large, Christian adoption agencies with contracts with the state – Bethany Christian Services and Catholic Charities. The Catholic Charities letter openly threatens to cease adoption services in the state in the event

same-sex marriage is approved by the nation's highest court; unless, of course, Snyder signed the legislation to enshrine religious bigotry in law and reward that bigotry with taxpayer cash – taxpayer cash collected from both LGBTQ people and allies as well as supporters of the anti-gay agenda.

This move is a blatant violation of Michigan's Constitution. "The civil and religious rights, privileges and capacities of no individual shall be diminished or enlarged on account of his opinions or belief concerning matters of religion," Article I, Section 4 tells Michiganders.

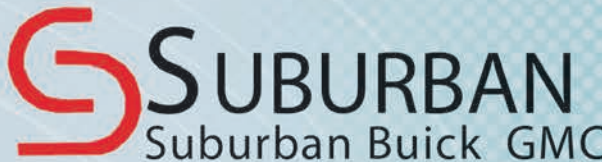
This legislation diminishes the rights of children to have safe, loving homes, trapping them in a system of constant home transfers and instability we call foster care. This legislation enlarges the rights of religious organizations over the rights of individuals, particularly the children who are desperately seeking adoptive homes.


Snyder should have vetoed this bill with the swiftness with which he, instead, signed it. It is an attack on Michiganders and is no less vile than the Religious Freedom Restoration Act he has threatened to veto. In fact, we believe Snyder's signature on these bills is a promise broken. Snyder has sided with the bigots, not Michiganders, and certainly not the most vulnerable children among us.

A Snyder veto may have been overridden in the GOP controlled Senate. But that is not an acceptable reason to sign blatant bigotry into law. And if Republicans bargained away the chance for children to find loving homes in exchange for highway funding, then the GOP's twisted priorities have reached a new moral and ethical low.

Gov. Snyder, despite all your rhetoric about opposing discrimination, you've proven yourself to be a liar. We cannot and will not take you for your word anymore. You, Mr. Governor, are a threat to the health, safety and welfare of Michigan. You, Mr. Governor, are a danger to Michigan's children and a menace to the LGBTQ community.


**Snyder should have vetoed this bill with the swiftness with which he, instead, signed it. It is an attack on Michiganders and is no less vile than the Religious Freedom Restoration Act he has threatened to veto.**





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## Analysis

OPINION BY JAY KAPLAN

# There's Still A Long Way To Go For Equality In Michigan

BY JAY KAPLAN

Last week the Detroit Free Press put out an editorial, rightfully shaming Gov. Snyder for signing into law a bill that permits state funded faith-based adoption and foster care agencies to deny services to families and refuse to place children in homes based on “sincerely held religious beliefs,” even if such placements would be in the best interests of children. This law, apart from promoting and subsidizing a particular religious viewpoint in violation of the constitution, now makes it more difficult for 13,000 children currently in the foster care system to find loving homes by allowing discrimination to rule the day. It was indeed a shameful moment for Michigan.

In this editorial, the Free Press makes reference to the much anticipated decision from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding marriage equality for same-sex couples which is due by the end of this month. According to a Public Research Religion Institute (PRRI) poll, 65 percent of Americans believe that the Court will issue an opinion in favor of marriage equality for all 50 states, including Michigan. The Free Press states that a favorable decision “could invalidate all legislative or constitutional provisions that permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.” I believe the Free Press may be referring to the possibility that the Supreme Court, through its decision, may also determine that discriminatory laws against LGBT people be given a higher level of constitutional scrutiny by the Courts – in other words making it more difficult for these laws and policies to pass constitutional muster and be upheld by the Courts. That would be terrific if the Court raises the level of scrutiny, but there’s no guarantee that this will happen, even if the Court finds the marriage bans to be unconstitutional. The fact remains that while there will be much to celebrate and to rejoice in a favorable marriage equality decision, there still remains much to be done in the state of Michigan, and more challenges ahead for the LGBT community in the struggle for full equality.

The discriminatory adoption bill that was approved by our governor is part of a series of proposed legislation targeting the LGBT community, as a backlash response to anticipated marriage equality. Our legislature has a number of bills in the pipeline, including a so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act, similar if not identical to the one in Indiana, that would permit both individuals and businesses to openly discriminate against LGBT people in employment, housing and public accommodations. There is similar legislation that would specifically allow medical providers to refuse to provide health services, also under the guise of religious beliefs. There is also legislation that could effectively gut local human rights ordinances and policies that protect LGBT people from discrimination. Our opponents have been emboldened by Gov. Snyder’s signature on the adoption discrimination bill

### ► Snyder

Continued from p. 4

law. For instance, in Illinois, after courts there ruled the agencies were required to follow the law and provide domestic partner benefits, the agencies simply shut down operations rather than comply. There are no reports that shifting the adoption cases from those agencies to other agencies resulted in any difficulties impacting the children.

Not unsurprisingly, the Michigan Catholic Conference hailed the passage of the bills into law.

“The state of Michigan has sought the participation and support of faith-based child placement agencies for decades, so we welcome this legislation that will solidify the relationship for the sake of vulnerable children,” said Tom Hickson, MCC Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy, in a press release on the agency’s website. “Michigan thrives on diversity — these bills will ensure faith-based agencies are able to operate according to their conscience in order to continue serving others in our state.”

“The state has made significant progress in finding more forever homes for Michigan kids in recent years and that wouldn’t be possible without the public-private partnerships that facilitate the adoption process,” Snyder said in a press release. “We are focused on ensuring that as many children are adopted to as many loving families as possible regardless of their makeup.”

That however flies in the face of the findings of the Williams Institute. The report found that 250 Michigan foster kids are currently residing in LGB headed households, and another 3,460 children had been adopted by LGB households.

In a May brief on the three bills, the California based organization reported that in the U.S. 54 percent of lesbians report wanting to adopt children, while only 37 percent of heterosexual women reported such a desire. The organization said there was no comparable data on gay men versus straight men. But making an assumption that a similar number of bisexual or gay men wanted to adopt, the organization estimated there were 35,000 LGB homes available to adopt in Michigan.

The ACLU, however, condemned the legislation and is preparing a lawsuit.

“We’re deeply disappointed that Gov. Snyder signed this dangerous legislation,” Rana Elmir, deputy director of ACLU of Michigan, said in a press release. “We are developing a legal challenge with our Muslim, Jewish, Christian and LGBTQ partners. We encourage any family looking to adopt or foster children who believe they will be adversely affected by this law to

contact us immediately. The agencies that are subject to HB 4188-4190 are receiving state money to perform a public function and are therefore state actors. Agencies have a legal obligation to ensure the best interests of the child are considered during placement. There is nothing about this shameful legislation that helps vulnerable kids find homes.”

“This horrific law is an affront to thousands of households led by same-sex couples,” Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the Michigan ACLU LGBT Project, wrote on his Facebook page. “It ignores the tens of thousands of Michiganders who spoke out against it. And most of all: it harms the 13,000-plus children in the adoption and foster care system whose chances of finding a nurturing home just got a little more bleak. What’s more, now that this harmful bill has been signed into law, we know it will only embolden proponents of the dangerous RFRA bill that would give any individual or business a ‘license to discriminate’ against LGBT Michiganders.”

Progress Michigan was even harsher in its critique and condemnation.

“Gov. Snyder has a history of siding with extreme corporate donors, but sacrificing the health and well-being of children is a new low — even for him,” said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan. “Children deserve loving homes and our elected officials should be held accountable for supporting this blatant act of discrimination. We hope that Gov. Snyder is prepared for the same amount of backlash that was seen in Indiana when they passed similar RFRA-style legislation, and we encourage the people to raise up their voices in protest.”

And lawmakers also condemned the swift action to sign the legislation into law, less than 24 hours after it landed on Snyder’s desk.

“I am bitterly disappointed by Gov. Rick Snyder’s signing of the adoption discrimination bills into law today,” House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills, said in a statement Friday. “Just three months ago, Snyder said he would not support a proposal allowing people and businesses to use their faith as legal grounds to discriminate. I can’t understand his action today as anything other than a betrayal of Michigan’s diverse population. Adoption agencies receive taxpayer dollars, and they shouldn’t be allowed to discriminate against taxpayers who pay them. The previous law required adoption agencies to do what’s best for the child, period. That should always be our focus, and Michigan deserves better from our governor.”

U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee, who represents Michigan’s Fifth Congressional District, also condemned the new laws.

“It is an absolute disgrace that Gov. Snyder has given adoption agencies a license to discriminate against loving Michigan families. Right now, there are thousands of children in the state’s foster care system waiting to be placed in nurturing homes. We should be focused on finding all of these children a permanent place to live, not denying some Michigan families the ability to adopt a child simply because they are gay. That is wrong and simply cruel,” Kildee said in a written statement Friday. “The people of Michigan want to live in a state where all loving families are accepted and treated with dignity and respect. Sadly, in signing these dangerous and discriminatory bills today, Gov. Snyder has enshrined discrimination in our laws and taken our state in the wrong direction.”

## Adoption Laws Violate State Constitution

STATE CONSTITUTION (EXCERPT)  
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§ 4 Freedom of worship and religious belief; appropriations.

Sec. 4.

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History: Const. 1963, Art. I, § 4, Eff. Jan. 1, 1964  
Former Constitution: See Const. 1908, Art. II, § 3.

See Analysis: Kaplan, page 7

# New Poll Finds Most Michiganders Support LGBT Equality Issues

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A new poll by Glengariff group and released by WDIV in Detroit has found that the majority of Michigan citizens support legalizing marriage equality, recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states and amending the state's civil rights law. By a wide margin, most Michiganders oppose religious freedom laws.

The poll of 600 representative Michigan voters, leaders and politicians found an overwhelming majority of Michiganders oppose so-called religious freedom laws, by a margin of 76.5 percent to 18.5 percent.

Support for marriage equality stayed stable at 55.5 percent in favor of approval to 32.5 percent in opposition. In relation to marriages performed outside of the state of Michigan, 61.4 percent of voters supported recognizing those same-sex marriages when the couple moves to Michigan; 27.3 percent oppose such recognition.

Of keen interest, 77 percent of those polled said they supported amending the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to protect the LGBT community – a legislation dream unfolding since 1981; 17.9 percent of voters polled opposed amending the state law. The poll found even those voters who identified as strongly Republican supported the amendment to Elliott-Larsen, 70.8 percent to 22 percent. Older voters, aged 65-plus, also broadly supported such



an expansion 76.9 percent to 18 percent.

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder has an overall positive rating from voters, 55 percent to 39 percent, while a majority of voters think the legislature is doing a poor job, 50 percent to 34 percent.

**77 percent of those polled said they supported amending the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to protect**

The poll also found the majority of voters support legalization of small amounts of marijuana for those 21 and over in the state, 56.1 percent to 35.7 percent

## ► Analysis: Kaplan

Continued from p. 6

and that means that more of these bills will be given attention by Michigan's legislature. All of these efforts are an attempt to deny LGBT people the same opportunities and dignity accorded to other Michigan residents, and we must remain vigilant.

Aside from the legislation we are trying to defeat, there remains a long list of proactive things to do, most importantly, amending our state civil rights laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories against discrimination. In most places in Michigan it is still legal to be fired and denied housing and public accommodations for being LGBT. While LGBT people may be able to get married over the weekend should the Supreme Court issue a favorable decision, they still could be fired when they return to work Monday morning. We need to change the current Secretary of State's policy on gender changes on state IDs which makes it virtually impossible for transgender people to obtain correct Michigan identity documents, subjecting them to harassment

and discrimination. We need to eliminate Michigan's Medicaid ban on coverage for any transgender related medications. We need to ensure that both LGBT parents are recognized as legal parents to their children, through adoption and through the judicial concept of equitable parenthood. We need to ensure that LGBT students are free from bullying and harassment from school so that they can focus on their studies, instead of having to worry about their safety. We need to address racial and economic inequalities that exist in our community by working and collaborating with organizations that are trying to do that.

A long list to be sure. I am one of those 65 percent who think we're going to have a favorable marriage equality decision. And if that happens, let's both celebrate and rejoice the incredible progress that has been made on this issue. But at the same time, let's not delude ourselves into thinking that full LGBT equality in Michigan has been achieved. We've got a long way to go, and there are more battles to be won.

*Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project.*

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## Poll: Most Americans Expect Supreme Court To OK Gay Marriage

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of Americans expect the Supreme Court to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide when it rules on the issue within the next few weeks, according to a new poll.

Only 25 percent expect the high court to leave existing state bans on gay marriage intact, while 65 percent expect the bans to be overturned, according to the poll conducted by the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute. Its nationwide survey of 1,009 adults was conducted from June 3 to June 7.

Mirroring the findings of several other recent national polls, the new survey found 55 percent of Americans in favor of allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally, and 37 percent opposed.

Among those who oppose same-sex marriage, 72 percent say the decision about its legality should be made at the state level. Among those who favor same-sex marriage, 59 percent say the issue should be decided at the national level. At the moment, same-sex marriages are allowed in 36 states.

The survey found sharp divisions over same-sex marriage along religious lines. Majorities of religiously unaffiliated Americans (79 percent), white mainline Protestants (60 percent) and Catholics (58 percent) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry. But gay marriage was supported by only 29 percent of white evangelical Protestants and 35 percent of nonwhite Protestants.

The survey also asked about perceptions of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Three-quarters of Democrats, 61 percent of independents and 50 percent of Republicans said there is a lot of discrimination against transgender people.

Overall, 69 percent of Americans — including 65 percent of Republicans and 60 percent of white evangelical Protestants — said they favored laws that would protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations and housing.

And 60 percent of Americans opposed allowing small business owners to refuse service to gays and lesbians, even if it violates their religious beliefs. This opposition included 64 percent of Catholics, 63 percent of nonwhite Protestants and 59 percent of white mainline Protestants. Among white evangelical Protestants, 51 percent supported allowing small business owners to refuse service to gays and lesbians on religious grounds.

According to the survey, 65 percent of Americans report having a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian. Only 11 percent reported having a close friend or family member who is transgender.

The survey consisted of telephone interviews — half conducted on cellphones — among a random sample of adults. The research institute said the margin of error for the survey was plus or minus 3.7 percentage points.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

# New Documentary Tells Tragic Tale Of Murdered Transgender Teen

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

By now, most Metro Detroiters in the LGBT community are familiar with the story of transgender teen Shelly “Treasure” Hilliard. But a new documentary, “Treasure: From Tragedy To Transjustice, Mapping A Detroit Story,” by filmmaker dream hampton, revisits the gruesome tale of Hilliard’s demise and the transphobia that contributed to her death.

Hilliard, 19, was in a room at the Motel 6 in Madison Heights, a location known to be frequented by sex workers, when Madison Heights police officers allegedly followed the scent of marijuana to her door. Once inside, the officers, Chad Wolowiec and David Koehler, allegedly threatened Hilliard with jail and imprisonment unless she gave up her dealer and helped them set up a sting. Hilliard called the man, Qasim Raqib, and told him she had someone interested in buying a large quantity. A short time later, the officers pulled Raqib’s car over as it approached the motel and eventually arrested him for possession with intent to distribute. Then, at the police station, the officers are said to have told Raqib that he was set up by a lady at the motel.

Raqib, of course, knew who the lady was. Once he made bail, he set a plan of revenge into motion. Three days later, on Oct. 23, 2011, he used a disposable cell phone to set up a date with Hilliard. Once Raqib had lured her to the arranged location, a house on Longfellow Street in Detroit, he quickly set his plan into motion.

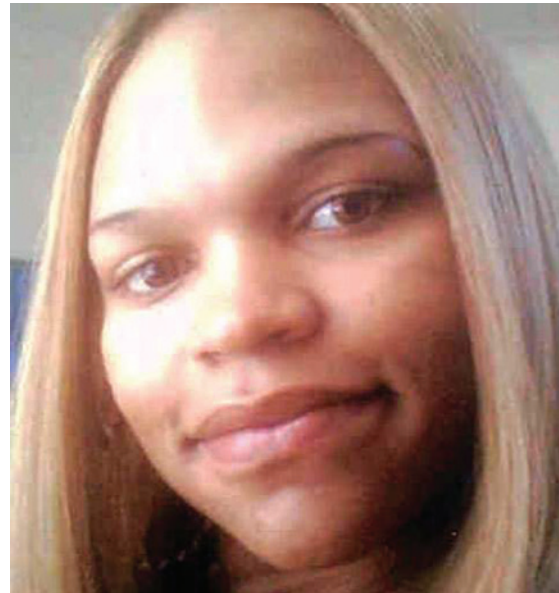
Raqib not only beat and tortured Hilliard, he killed her and then chopped up her body to hide evidence and eventually set fire to her torso. It was found a few hours later in a field near Interstate 94 and Bewick Street. But it would be some weeks before her body was eventually identified through a cherry tattoo on a portion of her upper right arm that was still attached to her torso.

Nearly four years later, Hilliard’s mom, Lyniece Nelson, struggles to recall her daughter without crying. “I’m trying to figure out how to remember her without being in so much pain,” Nelson said. “I try to stay strong for my little ones, my grandbabies and my other children. But

it’s still hard. I think about her every day.”

In “Treasure,” hampton tells Hilliard’s story while interweaving a narrative of the biases faced by many trans women today. The film is unpolished but full of a grit that seems naturally complementary to the dark story it tells.

“I thought that it was something that really highlighted a powerful story that is a product of many generations of transphobia and many generations of sexism in many areas of society,” said Emani Love, an outreach worker at the Ruth Ellis Center, who was interviewed



The late Shelly “Treasure” Hilliard is the subject of a new documentary, “Treasure: From Tragedy To Transjustice, Mapping A Detroit Story,” by filmmaker dream hampton. The film revisits the gruesome tale of Hilliard’s demise and the transphobia that contributed to her death. Photo courtesy of Hilliard family.

for the film. Love said that Hilliard’s murder “was a product of transphobia systemically because of the structure of our current society not allowing trans people access to sustainable resources and services... (Hilliard) was forced into a position that many trans people are forced into, having to navigate the realm of survival sex work.”

Bre’ Campbell, a consultant for the Transgender Law Center, said that trans women often end up in the world of survival sex work “because of their parents not fully understanding and supporting their transitions and the systems that are set up — getting a job, having the right documentation. We live in a society that

tells trans people that they don’t exist or they’re not supposed to have regular jobs. But then we turn around and penalize them for participating in sex work.”

Nelson, of course, hopes that viewers of the film will not focus on what Hilliard did, but on who she was. “She was a human being just like everybody else,” said Nelson. “There was nothing about her that changed when she became transgender. Her heart was the same. The way she treated people was the same. She was loved by her family. No one looked at her different.” But the Madison

Heights police officers did, or at least that’s the powerful assertion made by former Detroit Chief of Police Ralph Godbee in the film.

“It was inherently coercive for her to (be made to) cooperate completely to make sure she doesn’t get locked up,” Godbee said. “But, in retrospect, being locked up, unfortunately, would have been much better for her than the fate that was ahead of her that I strongly believe was fueled by either a serious lack of training, definitely a lack of understanding of the LGBT community, definitely a lack of understanding of how this transgender individual was in fear and definitely a lack of understanding or pure malice to identify a confidential informant. That is just not anything that, ethically, any police officer could engage in in any good conscience.”

Today, Nelson is suing the Madison Heights Police for violation of due process and wrongful death. Nothing, of course, will bring back her daughter, but she said watching the film, and hearing her daughter’s voice, helps. “It’s not just Treasure’s story; there’s a lot of other stories in there,” said Nelson. “I’m glad that it’s going to be able to reach a lot of people. If it changes just one person’s mind about how they feel about transgender people, that’s what I’m hoping it will do. Enlighten people.”

“Treasure: From Tragedy to Transjustice, Mapping a Detroit Story” will have its Detroit premier Thursday, June 18, at the Detroit Film Theatre.



## Perceptions Hosts Seventh Annual LGBT And Ally Pride Awards

The Seventh Annual LGBT and Ally Pride Awards Banquet will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, at the Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive in Saginaw. The evening includes a garden reception, dinner and an LGBT awards program emceed by Peter Brian Barry. Individual and corporate sponsorships fund the banquet. The event tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for students and will be available at the door. Tickets and Sponsorships are available at [www.perceptionsSV.org/pride](http://www.perceptionsSV.org/pride), by calling 989-891-1429 or by emailing [pride@perceptionsSV.org](mailto:pride@perceptionsSV.org).

Randy Hasso is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. He has generously volunteered and has been involved with gay, transgender and HIV/AIDS communities for more than 30 years. He worked with the NAMES (AIDS) Quilt displays, the first Pride award banquets, attended national gay rights marches in Washington, D.C. and is a long-time member of Perceptions where he currently chairs the "Adopt-a-Highway program."

David Custer and Heather Aviles will be awarded Champion of Pride Awards. Custer is an openly gay news anchor at WNEM-TV-5 who overcame serious high school bullying and has received several Emmy awards. Aviles is the adviser for the Gay/Straight Alliance at Midland High School; directed education of gender and sexuality with teachers, staff and students; organized LGBTQ speakers and displays; and has worked on the visibility of the LGBT community.

Brandon Error, Cara Mitrano and Jody Liebmann will receive Rising Star Awards. Error organized the first Lavender Graduation at Saginaw Valley State University in May and is the president of Living Proud, SVSU's LGBTIA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, ally) student group. Mitrano is the president and a co-founder of the Gay/Straight Alliance at Midland High School, has created a blog for the SGA and is responsible for many LGBT and ally events at Midland High School. Liebmann has become a public ally who advocates for gay and transgender rights and for victims of sexual assault with Saginaw's Underground Railroad. Her passion and dedicated service to the underprivileged demonstrates her belief in equality for all individuals.

Dan Kildee, 5th District Congressman, has been granted the Political Award. He has been a dedicated LGBT community ally by serving as Vice Chair at the LGBT Equality Caucus, fighting Michigan's discriminatory marriage ban and championing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. He recently introduced a resolution expressing that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Midland's Planet Fitness will received the Business Award. The gym is committed to a non-intimidating and welcoming environment for members with its "Judgement Free Zone." Planet Fitness's gender identity non-discriminating policy is a model for other businesses.

*The Pride Awards Banquet is organized by Perceptions, a nonprofit group that provides education, networking and advocacy services for the well-being of LGBT individuals, their allies and the community at large. Find out more by visiting [www.perceptionsMI.org](http://www.perceptionsMI.org).*

## Gay Adoption Ban Stricken From Florida Laws After Four Decades

TALLAHASSEE (AP) – The nearly four-decade-old law that prevents gays from adopting children will disappear from Florida's statutes on July 1.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill today that removes the language – though the ban hasn't been enforced for the past five years.

The bill signed by Scott also promotes adoption, but the original language was changed to include a provision removing the gay adoption ban from state law.

While conservative Republicans objected to the idea, others said that it simply changes the law to reflect reality.

A judge ruled five years ago that the state's ban was unconstitutional.

Nadine Smith, executive directory of Equality Florida

since 1997 said, "Gov. Scott today signed an adoption bill that includes the removal of Florida's anti-gay adoption ban. Though the ban was declared unconstitutional by the Third DCA the language remaining on the books kept the door for opposition shenanigans open if even just a crack. We are thrilled that this ugly chapter in Florida's history has been closed for good. Thousands upon thousands of children live with the security and permanency of a forever home because the courts struck down the ban. Now the lingering insult has been erased as well."

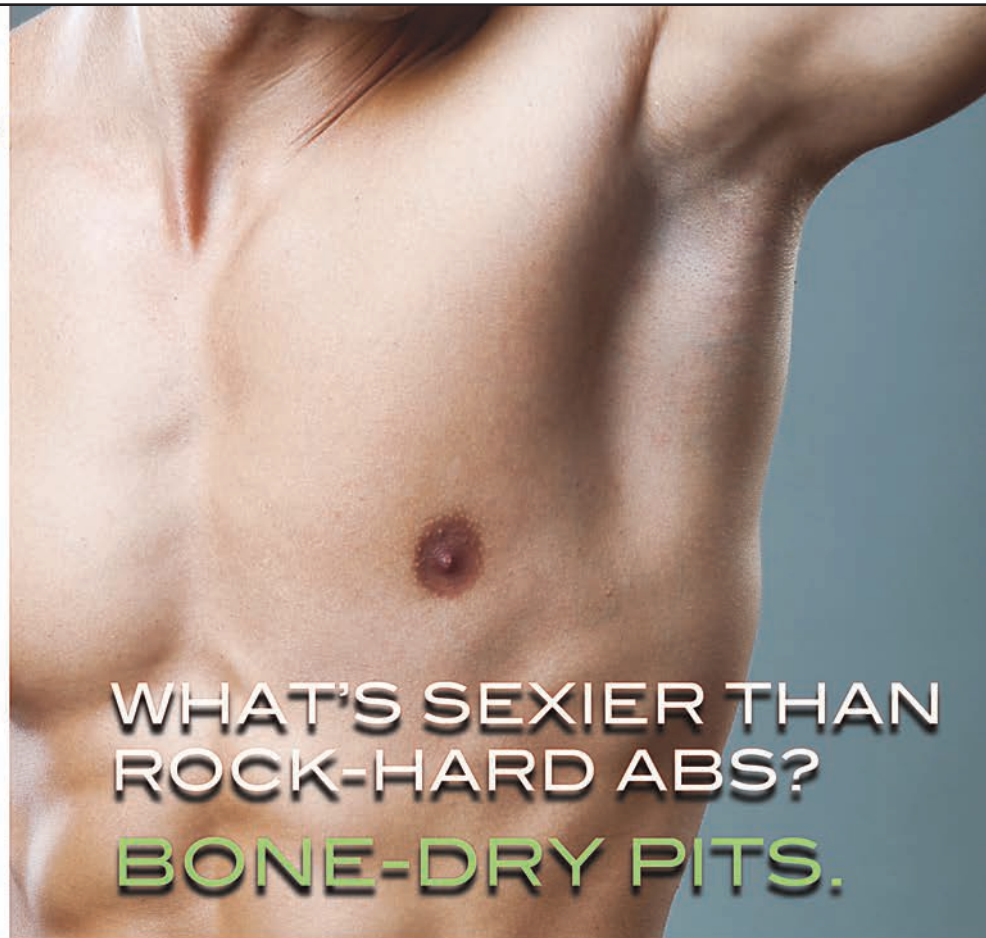
House Republicans had sought to pass legislation that would have allowed private adoption agencies from refusing gay couples, but time ran out in the regular legislative session that ended last month.

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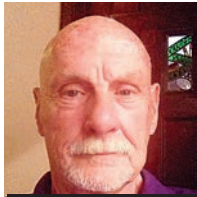
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# Pass Me A Mantra, Mary!



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I have a friend who meditates 20 minutes morning; 20 minutes, evening. He's been at it for 30 years. Not that it's done him a lick of good.

He drives waiters crazy. Zooms up and down expressways like he's doing the Indy 500. Alpha Male by choice (his profession is politics), he swears TM – Transcendental Meditation – made a big difference in his life.

"I'm mentally alert, intellectually sharp, on top of things because of TM," he reflects in a moment of 950-caloric, dining/dessert introspection. "And I tip well." One thing's certain: meditation's an ingrained habit for him, and, as Truman Capote observed of the daily wank for sexual well being: You don't have to dress up.

The Beatles' romance with TM proved passing fancy. They moved on to more lucrative psychedelic explorations. "Imagine" and "My Sweet Lord" are soulful, songful reminders of their yogic spiritual encounter. ("Imagine there's no heaven. It's easy if you try.")

A recent Google check brings up 551,000 books, pamphlets and articles about TM, its benefits – levitation, for the aeronautically inclined – and its drawbacks: tailpipe exhaust following hours of third-eye overdrive.

Eastern mediative practices – chanting, singing, mantra repetition, symbols, chakras, mandalas, yantras – are attractive to gays who have forsaken traditional Judaic-Christian monotheistic belief systems.

**While many rainbow converts have found comfort in the teachings of Hinduism watered down for Western consumption and Buddhist mindfulness, they have also, not too surprisingly, found homophobic attitudes among gurus, leaders and followers.**

I remember back in the 1960s when Transcendental Meditation was introduced at Wayne University's campus. Initiation for one's personal "you only" mantra cost \$30, along with an offering of a clean folded handkerchief and a piece of fruit. (Bananas were popular among alpha types.)

Meditation – in or out of loincloth – is a very old practice, traced back 4,000 years to Mohenjo-daro, a crumble cake of a city in Pakistan. A cylinder found at an archeological dig there shows a figure squatting in pretzel-like posture. (Accompanying hieroglyphic: "Help! Rama-Dama, my poor leg's gone to sleep.")

The Beatles made TM meditation a watchword for Westerners. The group toured India in the 60s, embraced the teachings of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi – who died at the sage age of 90 – returned, introducing the tiny bubble of a beaming guru and his light-headed technique to a generation of anti-war, flower-power hippies.

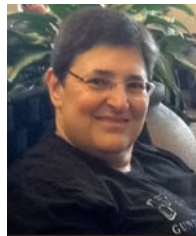
Oy, vey! Selah! Ah-men!

While many rainbow converts have found comfort in the teachings of Hinduism watered down for Western consumption and Buddhist mindfulness, they have also, not too surprisingly, found homophobic attitudes among gurus, leaders and followers.

Gay writer Andrew Harvey tells of his troubling encounter ("Hidden Journey") with Mother Meera, a 19-year-old "saint" who possessed so-called mystical powers. Harvey sought to be her disciple, until she told him to drop his male lover and marry a woman. (Harvey's gayness came with No Parking Karma Wanted Here!)

The ultra-glamorous Gurumayi Chidvilasananda (who's said by disgruntled followers to have had a cosmetic, not cosmic, nose job) advises her Siddha Yoga flock that gays are not welcome in leadership roles. With or without nose jobs, one presumes.

See Parting Glances, next page



## Viewpoint

### Beyond Decision Day

OPINION BY NANCY KATZ

As I'm sitting here, I am hoping and expecting news of the biggest victory yet in the battle for LGBT rights – marriage equality. Like most people my age, we never expected to see this in our lifetimes. When we get our Supreme Court decision, we will all celebrate our good fortune, hug our spouses (who will then be our legal spouses even in Michigan) and thank everyone who helped this day happen.

But it seems one of the strangest ironies that, on our greatest day of celebration, we still lack the most basic civil rights protections. Of course, civil rights movements never move along a direct path. In the 1970s and 1980s, LGBT civil rights were focused on employment discrimination, repeal of sodomy laws and, of course, AIDS. These efforts had some success. However, Evan Wolfson, who is the legal and intellectual father of the marriage equality movement, convinced LGBT leaders that marriage equality was the most important goal. He believed that denial of our right to marry marginalizes LGBT people and winning marriage rights would be the cornerstone of full justice. In a way that seems obvious today, marriage affords our relationships the legitimacy and integrity that only equal marriage could.

But being able to marry is not enough. In

**Being able to marry is not enough. In Michigan, and in most other states as well, we can get married on Saturday and be fired on Monday.**

Michigan, and in most other states as well, we can get married on Saturday and be fired on Monday. For that matter, we can be kicked out of our homes, and denied medical care, adoption and many other services. Winning marriage equality in a relatively few years is wonderful and amazing, but we can't stop there. Now that majorities of the public support marriage rights, and even greater majorities support equal rights, we must push forward to make secure equality in all spheres of our lives.

Winning the marriage equality battle has proven that the LGBT community has power. We have that power because we came out, talked to our friends and family and changed hearts and minds. We need to use that same power to educate our friends and

See Beyond Marriage, next page

# Ask Lambda Legal: Pride (And Prejudice)

BY HAYLEY GORENBERG

Some friends and I are really interested in having a gay pride parade in our city this summer. We went to local officials to get a permit for the event, but we were told that the city would not let us hold the parade or display our banners and flags (as they do for other parades) because the event might "offend" some members of the community. Is there anything we can do?

Pride season is definitely an exciting and high-energy time, one which promotes and celebrates solidarity among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the community and their allies.

Pride parades are also important to outreach and advocacy groups that serve as resources for the LGBT community, providing key opportunities for them to connect with the community in an affirming and welcoming atmosphere. Businesses can also benefit from participating, opening them up to new customers and strengthening local support.

While these are all key reasons your city should host a Pride parade, there is also an important legal reason: equal protection. Your city is required to grant you access to the same city resources that are made available to other groups hosting similar public events. The city cannot deny you a permit for your Pride event, or refuse to put up banners and signs promoting it, if the city allows these things for similar events hosted by other groups.

What it all boils down to is that, as a matter of law, government officials may not pick and choose who is allowed services based on point of view. This is not a popularity contest. You have a constitutional right to equal protection, and thus you have a constitutional right to hold your Pride event.

In 2008, Lambda Legal served as co-

counsel in Central Alabama Pride, Inc. v. Larry Langford, representing an Alabama organization, Central Alabama Pride, that has held a gay pride parade in Birmingham every year since 1989. But in May 2008, Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford announced that he would neither sign a proclamation nor provide a permit for gay pride based on his religious beliefs that do not "condone that lifestyle choice." The mayor went so far as to forbid city workers from attaching Pride banners on city poles. CAP filed a complaint against the city in August 2008. Ultimately the city settled and was ordered to pay legal fees in excess of \$40,000 and establish nondiscriminatory regulations for the approval of hanging banners on city property by city employees to announce upcoming public events.

While the law is clear, ensuring it is followed is often an uphill climb. Lambda Legal is working every day to make sure that LGBT people everywhere are treated with respect and dignity.

*If you have any questions, or feel you have been discriminated against because of your sexual orientation, contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk at 1-866-542-8336, or see [www.lambdalegal.org/help](http://www.lambdalegal.org/help). Hayley Gorenberg is Lambda Legal's Deputy Legal Director.*

## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 10

families about our lack of civil rights. We need to engage businesses and corporations in lobbying the legislature for LGBT equality. We need to support those organizations in our community that are leading the charge to secure full equal rights. Perhaps most

importantly, we need to vote and support lawmakers who support us.

So, I'm going to celebrate the day we get a Supreme Court decision, and I'm sure you will too. But we can't rest on our laurels. Make decision day a celebration *and* a call to action to secure equal rights once and for all.

*Nancy Katz is a retired attorney and longtime activist living in southeast Michigan.*

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

Gays may, if reverentially discrete, perform "seva" (dedicated volunteer service), buy literature, count religious mantra beads 108 times. Donate freely. Adore her.

The smart thing to do when guru shopping is to check a spiritual driver's license before turning over the keys to your convertible (or wedding party limo). Four of the once top swamis hitting on America – Swami Muktananda, Swami Rama, Sri Kriyananda, Amrit Desai – were each accused of sexual

hanky panky. Occasionally sued by American female followers. Kriyananda died this year.

Chögyam Trungpa, who introduced Tibetan Buddhism rituals to America, was a boozing bisexual who regularly hit on male followers. His successor, Ösel Tendzin – not ethically much better – is reported to have had unprotected sex with devotees, men and women. He died of AIDS-related causes.

One gathers that meditation doesn't always sit well with its practitioners. Om shack up! Make sure your asana is covered. Use mascara lightly on your Third Eye.

*GuruCharles@pridesource.com*

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William VanHemert, president and chief executive officer of APM, Jimena Loveluck, president/CEO and executive director of HARC, Hank Millbourne, vice president of programs and operations at APM. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

## APM And HARC Merger Moves Forward

### 'Stronger Together' Looks For New Approaches To HIV/AIDS Prevention

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT** – Following a trend that is affecting AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) around the country, AIDS Partnership Michigan and HIV/AIDS Resource Center decided to work toward a formal merger of their organizations on Jan. 1.

“One of the things that we felt really strongly when entering into this process and thinking about a merger is, we didn’t want it to seem like APM was taking over HARC or HARC was taking over APM. So we wanted to really approach this as two equals and recognize the changes that have happened over HIV funding, but in terms of the needs of people living with HIV or at risk for HIV – really thinking about how we want to identify ourselves and what kind of organization we want to be,” said Jimena Loveluck, president/CEO and executive director of HARC.

The two organizations will continue to act as APM and HARC, but by fall they plan to launch the combined organization, equipped with a new name, new logo and new brand identity. The merged organization will include broader services targeting STD and STI prevention and will continue to provide

HIV/AIDS services.

APM, founded in 1983 and HARC, founded in 1986, have worked together for more than 14 years through the HIV/AIDS Alliance of Michigan, AIDS Walk Michigan, the StatusSexy campaign and through involvement as community partners of the University of Michigan Center for Sexuality and Health Disparities. Together they provide HIV prevention and direct care services to 10 counties in southeast Michigan.

Around the U.S. HIV/AIDS organizations have been merging so they can continue to provide services to their area communities. Changes in the Affordable Care Act put pressure on ASOs to emphasize biomedical approaches to HIV and integrate HIV/AIDS services with broader health care systems. Because of changes in how funding is allocated to HIV/AIDS non-profit organizations, APM and HARC decided to merge their two agencies to better serve the southeast Michigan community.

Negotiations on the merger started in 2013 when APM and HARC recognized that funding garnered through the Ryan White CARE Act, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was

shifting with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

“The merger just made logical sense,” William VanHemert, president and chief executive officer of APM said. The two organizations are dedicated to serving the southeast Michigan community. Both have case management and prevention services although HARC has developed harm reduction services and APM provides behavioral health services. With complementary services and programming, merging the two to form a bigger organization allows for expansion and new innovative models that will better serve the 10 counties. It also helps diversify their funding, making them less dependent on state and federal grant funding.

The agencies received a grant from the AIDS United Sector Transformation Initiative to facilitate the merger. These grants provide technical assistance and consultations to ASOs to help with restructuring. Michigan is one of four states still receiving funding from the Initiative because APM/HARC and similar agencies are considered “on track” with national progression of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services.

See APM/HARC, page 13

## Large Footprint

“One of the things we know is that as a combined organization, we have the largest footprint of any community based organization right now. I’m not going to even call us an AIDS organization. Particularly in terms of when we look at the HIV epidemic, but also when we look at the STDs and hepatitis and all those other things,” said Hank Milbourne, vice president of programs and operations at APM.

People living with HIV/AIDS need primary care providers that are well versed in the disease. ASOs like APM/HARC have spent decades working on prevention and treatment and are experienced in handling clients affected by the disease and treating the person as a whole, whether it involves substance abuse issues, behavioral health problems or treating physical health concerns.

Expanding patient services will allow APM/HARC to apply for a more diverse range of funding, create opportunities for APM/HARC to showcase their work on the state and national level, participate in national conferences, talk about projects that other communities and organizations can adopt, engage in community research and provide consulting and technical assistance to other organizations that want to develop similar projects.

“I don’t want it to sound like we are saying bigger is better necessarily,” Loveluck said. “We want to have greater impact when it comes to our clients. We want to have greater advocacy that particularly affects our clients and this includes research sharing. For our clients, really nothing has changed with the merger. Their services have continued as they always have and they will go to the same office and work with the same case managers or testing counselors. So, we’ve tried to make it a really seamless process for our clients.”

The new organization will serve any individual who is in need of services be it a neighborhood, individual, storefront, church, other ASO or community organization. Michiganders may now have more comprehensive access to healthcare through the ACA; however, the local numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS remains too high.

“Our roots are within the LGBT community and we don’t want to forget that. We are proud of that. We don’t want to dismiss it,” Milbourne said. “That community actually touches on other fringes or intersections, other parts of the community that are impacted by other health disparities, too. So while we may continue to use that as a foundation, that is kind of like a stepping stone to reach out to other people who may also need services. Services that we have developed specialized skills for that we can help with.”

## HIV Stigma Index

In 2014, APM in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh through a substantial National Institutes of Health grant, surveyed 300 black men who have sex with men (MSM) with the goal of gathering regional data on those affected by HIV/AIDS and STDs in Detroit. Some preliminary data has come back in what will be known as the HIV Stigma Index, and the biggest surprise for Milbourne, who will continue to work on the ground with those who are most affected by the disease, was that of the people tested, one-third of those tests came back positive. “That number is much higher than I thought,” he said.

Between 45 and 50 percent of the population who is testing positive, nationally and locally, are black MSMs. There is an increase in rates between ages 20 to 24.

“The thing is that we have seen these rates for the last 15 years. Every year we still have the same number of people getting infected. It’s nice that it’s staying constant, but we need to bring it down if we want to do away with HIV in our community. And part of doing that is looking beyond behavior and that is why we want to look at the other social determinants that impact a person in terms of their health status,” Milbourne said.

Research shows that black MSMs don’t participate in any riskier behavior, have fewer sexual partners and their level of HIV/AIDS education is higher, but they are still contracting the disease at a higher rate than their white counterparts, Milbourne says. Such a discrepancy must be due to other factors, he adds.

“Right now the biggest percentage for HIV is still African-American MSMs within that (LGBT) community,” VanHemert said. “We are hearing that the trans community really needs services and (knowledge of) where they can get services. So once again it’s about treating the person as a whole and their health as a whole. So we want to go that way. We want to be that agency. We always have been part of the community. We try to strive for the best services within that community.”

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan gave APM and HARC a grant to assist with the merger implementation stage and the marketing and development of the rebranding. Once that process is final, VanHemert will be president and CEO, Loveluck will be vice president of community research and innovation and Milbourne will be vice president of programs and operations.

Both boards had 12 individuals and will combine to have one integrated board; six that were prior APM and six that were prior HARC. Loveluck, Milbourne and VanHemert will serve as staff liaisons to three committees that each board member will be a participant in.

“Some of the taglines we used were ‘Onward and Upward’ or ‘Moving Forward,’ but now it is ‘We Are Stronger Together’ and that concept,” VanHemert said.



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# Gay Teacher: Gerry Crane's Story

BY CAROL TANIS

When the ongoing story of gay music teacher Gerry Crane was in the media back in 1995, it had a chilling effect on gays and lesbians in West Michigan. Then when Crane died of a heart attack, six months after being forced from his career as music teacher and band director at Byron Center High School, many in the LGBT community went even deeper into the closet, fearing for their jobs as teachers.

Nearly two decades later, in many Michigan school districts and beyond, gay teachers remain at risk, which is largely why a Grand Rapids attorney is writing a book about Gerry Crane titled, "Gay Teacher, A Story About Love, Hate & Lessons Yet to be Learned."

"I want to tell Gerry's story to honor him and his struggle, one that is representative of generations of people who have lost their families, housing, jobs, careers, health and lives for merely choosing to live an authentic life," said Christine Yared. "I also want to tell his story so that at the least Gerry's death from discrimination will provide the impetus for change."

Crane knew at a young age that all he ever wanted to do in life was to be a music educator. In 1995 he had been teaching music at Byron Center High School for three years and was credited for leading the music program into excellence; the band won a regional award and the music program in general was receiving other accolades. "The High School Principal described him as 'the teacher who built their music program,'" said Yared.

After being together more than three years, Crane and his partner Randy Block decided to have a private commitment ceremony in 1995. It was led by a minister and held at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, and though it was for invited guests only, Yared says word got out about the ceremony.

"Gerry had called different people when he and Randy were searching for musicians to play at their commitment ceremony," she said. "Through the process of who they called, someone found out the reason for their musician search and called school officials. A student sneaked in and left with a program, which was turned over to school officials."

The Monday following the ceremony, Yared said, Crane was called into the administration office and questioned. "From that day on, his whole life and career changed overnight," Yared said.

School board meetings were held that fall and the board issued a pronouncement that being both gay and a teacher were not compatible. During the rest of that school year he was watched carefully and called into the office for various issues.

In addition, notices about Crane being a gay teacher in the school district were put on car windshields parked outside Byron Center church parking lots on Sunday. But perhaps most harmful was a video and a book produced by the Colorado-based organization Focus on the Family, which was mailed to parents of students in the district. The video included scenes of men dancing at a gay pride event. "The film and book highlighted the extreme; the book highlighted extreme pictures, false information and myths about gay people. It basically said, 'This is what gay people are all about and you don't want gay

Yet through the years, when she had time, she researched Crane's story and interviewed people who were connected to the tragedy.

"This story has to be told. It's such an important example of what's wrong with our legal system and the way that society treats people," Yared said. "We say we care about kids and we had this great teacher, and everyone agreed he was a great teacher, and then he was treated this way in front of students. And of course some of those students were also gay and struggling with their own sexuality. I just can't imagine what it would be like as a young kid going through your own coming out process witnessing this. It also had a huge impact on other gay teachers."

When Gerry Crane's story was being reported in the media, Rev. Doug Van Doren – pastor at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids – and

Nearly two decades after the events around Gerry Crane's life, LGBT teachers remain at risk in many Michigan school districts and beyond, which is largely why a Grand Rapids attorney is writing a book about Gerry Crane titled, "Gay Teacher, A Story About Love, Hate & Lessons Yet to be Learned."

people around your kids,'" said Yared. Meanwhile, some parents began pulling their kids from Crane's music classes and the other teachers were mostly silent about his situation. When Crane walked into the teachers' lounge, the room became quiet.

"So he was alone – very much alone," Yared said. "He went to work everyday in this environment that was just horrible. They were always at him, coming up with something that he did or said, making something of nothing. He had a horrible experience the rest of that school year."

Having had enough of the harassment, Crane resigned that June and signed a severance agreement for a year's pay. In late December of that year, Crane passed out and, suffering a heart attack, was admitted to a local hospital. Days later he went into a coma and was removed from life support. He was 32 years old.

Yared said an autopsy was done and the medical examiner concluded that Crane's premature death was due in part to emotional stress.

She began thinking of writing a book about Crane as far back as around the year 2000, but had to keep putting it off because of her practice as an attorney.

another local pastor wanted to provide support for the minister who performed Gerry and Randy's commitment service. Their efforts grew quickly, and soon a group of local pastors was formed called "Concerned Clergy." They wanted to tell the community they were in favor of LGBT individuals being a full part of the church and community. So they took out a nearly full-page ad in the Grand Rapids Press stating as such, and it was signed by more than 60 other ministers.

Van Doren said he's glad that Yared is telling Crane's story. "The story of Gerry Crane is so important and poignant," he said. "It exposed both deep bigotry and self-righteousness, as well as compassion and solidarity. His story, and ultimately his death, became a turning point in the struggle for justice and affirmation of LGBT persons. Kudos to Christine Yared for making sure this story is told and the lessons learned so that we continue to move forward."

Yared has been unsuccessful in finding a publisher interested in printing a book about Crane, she said, in part because it is viewed as an "old story." Gay marriage has eclipsed employment and housing discrimination, which many

See Gerry Crane, next page



The late Gerry Crane, right, with his partner Randy Block. Crane died of a heart attack, six months after being forced from his career as music teacher and band director at Byron Center High School. BTL file photo 1995.

LGBT individuals still encounter. So she is self-publishing her book and hopes to both finish and have it available before the end of this year. She feels strongly that, particularly in Michigan and in some places across the country, Gerry Crane's story is not an "old story," but a current story that is still being replayed.

"It is so relevant today, and it's very sad that it's relevant today," she said. "If Gerry were to return, I think it would be hard for many people to look at him. We'd have to say, 'We recognize you died because of discrimination,' and here we are almost two decades later and teachers are still losing their jobs just for being gay or lesbian or transgender. In Michigan it's still legal to fire someone or discriminate in employment based on one's sexual orientation or gender identity. Most

She added that through researching Gerry Crane's story, she has learned that it's not just teachers who fear for their jobs, but she's struck also by how many LGBT individuals, who may have a conservative boss or may work for a conservative company, remain in the closet. "Gerry's story really struck fear in many people and understandably so," she said.

When interviewing people for the book, Yared was impressed by how many people talked of what a gentle and good man he was. His wish was not to be an LGBT activist; he just wanted to be a teacher.

"Over and over people have had so many wonderful things to say about him. He was a very humble person and his principles were important to him. I want to tell not just what he went through, but how he handled it. What he did and didn't do. He was a wonderful person, trying to do the best he could for his students."

In the wake of Crane's death, several positive things have occurred in West Michigan, including the formation of a local chapter of GLSEN: Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network and a music scholarship established in Crane's memory. The Gerald M. Crane Memorial Scholarship for high school music students in Kent and Ottawa Counties is managed by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Since 1999, 46 scholarships have been awarded totaling more than \$21,000.

Yared is looking for people who have information about Crane's story and LGBT teachers from Michigan and across the country who have been discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. She can be contacted at: [cayared@comcast.net](mailto:cayared@comcast.net)

*Yared is using social media to raise the money to self-publish her book. To make a donation on her GoFundMe page, go to [www.gofundme.com/gayteacher](http://www.gofundme.com/gayteacher). To learn more about the project, go to [www.christineyared.com](http://www.christineyared.com) or like the project on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/gayteacher](http://www.facebook.com/gayteacher).*



states and our country do not have employment protections for gay people, and our federal government has not passed a discrimination law in this regard."

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## Creep of the Week

Rick Snyder

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**F**act: Michigan's Republicans, who are literally in charge of every branch of state government, do not give a shit about kids.

In case that wasn't clear to the world, the Republicans rammed through a religious exemption bill so that adoption agencies that receive tax payer money could discriminate against LGBT folks looking to adopt or foster children based on their so-called sincerely held religious beliefs. It's important to note that faith-based agencies handle a big bulk of foster care placements in the state.



Rick Snyder

Rumor has it that Snyder might have signed the anti-gay adoption bill in order to get support for a road funding bill he wants. Trading kids for pavement.

as far as the state is concerned, is just a live-in nanny. One would hope that once Michigan has to recognize their parents' marriages, that Michigan would also recognize that these kids have two parents.

This anti-gay adoption law, signed before the ink was even dry by Gov. Rick Snyder, is a warning to lesbian and gay couples raising kids in Michigan: "You might win this marriage thing, but we're gonna fight you tooth and nail over your kids."

Snyder has a reputation for being a moderate, though that reputation is woefully unearned. He calls himself a "tough nerd" but what he is proving himself to be is tough on Michigan's families, and not just the gay ones.

There are 13,000 kids in the state's care right now. The foster care system is complicated and rife with heartache. We're talking about a system that takes kids away from their parents, and while there is usually good reason, it's a traumatic situation for a child. Whether the child will later be reunited with his or her parents or whether that child needs a permanent new home, these kids need someone, now, who is willing to do the tough work of caring for them during what is the most difficult time of their young lives.

And now Michigan has just made that more difficult by allowing ideology to trump what's best for kids. All so Republicans can give gays and lesbians in the state yet another middle finger.

Astonishingly, Snyder said via press release, "We are focused on ensuring that as many children are adopted to as many loving families as possible regardless of their makeup."

This is at complete odds with the codification of discrimination that Snyder just signed his name to. It's clear that the family's "makeup" is more important than the "loving" part.

Supporters of the bill are quick to point out that, should a prospective parent be denied based on an agency's belief in a particular gay-hating sky god, said parents are to be referred to a different agency that's willing to deal with "their kind."

Rumor has it that Snyder might have signed the anti-gay adoption bill in order to get support for a road funding bill he wants. Trading kids for pavement. That's not a moderate move, and it's not befitting of anyone who wants to call himself a leader, let alone a decent human being.

# N. Carolina's Religious-Exemption Gay Marriage Bill Now Law

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON  
AND JONATHAN DREW

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** – A measure allowing some court officials to refuse to perform gay marriage responsibilities because of their religious beliefs became law in North Carolina on Thursday, but opponents said litigation challenging the new measure was likely to come soon.

The state House voted Thursday to override Republican Gov. Pat McCrory's veto of the bill, making the law effective immediately. The Senate voted to override last week.

North Carolina becomes the second state with such an exemption for court officials. Utah passed a similar one earlier this year.

The new law means some register of deeds workers who assemble licenses and magistrates to solemnize civil marriages can decide to stop performing all marriages if they hold a "sincerely held religious objection."

The law "protects sincerely held religious beliefs while also ensuring that magistrates are available in all jurisdictions to perform lawful marriages," House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, said in a statement.

Gay rights groups and Democrats who opposed North Carolina's bill said after the vote that litigation was likely to be filed soon. Republicans supporting the measure said federal laws provided religious accommodations to government officials, in keeping with the U.S. and state constitutions.

McCrory had said no one who takes a government oath should be able to avoid performing the duties that it requires.

"It's a disappointing day for the rule of law and the process of passing legislation in North Carolina," McCrory said in a statement. McCrory had been unhappy with several days of delays before the override vote by House leaders, while Democrats complained that the GOP used a parliamentary maneuver Thursday to abridge debate.

The law says court officials who disclose a "sincerely held religious objection" must stop performing marriage duties for both gay and heterosexual couples for at least six



months. The chief District Court judge or the county register of deeds – both elected officials – would fill in on marriages if needed.

Senate leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, introduced the bill shortly after federal rulings last October overturned North Carolina's voter-approved constitutional ban on gay marriage. Berger responded to several magistrates who resigned when the state's top court administrator wrote in a memo that those who declined to officiate for same-sex couples could be punished, terminated or face charges.

Providing religious accommodations are "the way employment law has worked for more than 50 years, and it was only in this misguided memo ... that even started this issue," said Rep. Paul Stam, R-Wake, a key supporter of the law.

In his May 28 veto message, McCrory said many North Carolina residents, including him, believe marriage is between a man and a woman. But "no public official who voluntarily swears to support and defend the Constitution and to discharge all duties of their office should be exempt from upholding that oath," McCrory wrote.

The Senate overturned McCrory's veto quickly, but House Republicans put off a vote because some supporters of the original bill were absent. Others were on the fence, according to lawmakers.

Opponents said the bill created a new form of discrimination similar to biases of a generation ago against multiracial marriages. They also said the bill didn't prevent delays for gay couples getting married if a court

official suddenly disclosed a religious objection when a couple approached the office counter of the magistrate or a register, particularly in smaller counties with smaller staffs.

The state ACLU urged people who encountered "new hurdles" getting married to contact its office. "This shameful backlash against equality will make it harder for all couples in our state to marry," state Executive Director Sarah Preston said.

Rep. Cecil Brockman, D-Guilford, apologized to all lesbian and gay couples in North Carolina for the House's action. "Your love is not different than anybody else's love in this state," he said at a news conference. His attempt to apologize publicly on the House floor after the vote was ruled out of order by Moore and halted.

McCrory's decision put him at odds with social conservatives aligned with Republicans. Concerned Women for America accused McCrory of betraying state residents and forcing court officials to violate their consciences.

"It's hard to believe that any governor – much less a conservative one – would veto a bill protecting the religious freedoms of his constituents," North Carolina Values Coalition Executive Director Tami Fitzgerald said.

Thursday's House vote of 69-41 was just over the three-fifths majority needed. Ten House members were absent and didn't vote. Three Democrats joined all but two Republicans present in voting for the override. An unaffiliated member who caucuses with Republicans also voted no.



# LGBT Older Adult Summit Returns To Detroit

The Fifth Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit will be held this weekend in downtown Detroit. The free event, being held under the motto of "Let The Good Times Roll," will feature community and social gathering information, senior employment and volunteer opportunities and an included continental breakfast and lunch.

Keynote speaker of the event is Darrius D. Hilmon, the new executive director of Affirmations. Hilmon has an impressive resume, a positive attitude and boundless energy. While Marketing & Development Director for Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, he led the team responsible for winning the Neighborhood Builder Award from Bank of

America (the first Detroit nonprofit to ever win the award), and the Achieving Excellence Award from DTE Energy. A Detroit native and a graduate of the University of Michigan, Hilmon is also the Essence best-selling author of the novels, "5 Dimes" and "Divalicious," and the anthology, "Love."

The summit will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 at the MSU Detroit Campus, 3408 Woodward Ave., Detroit. The event is sponsored by the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, Between the Lines, Affirmations, LGBT Detroit, Detroit Elder Project, AARP and more.

Register for the summit at [bit.ly/1L4qzKM](http://bit.ly/1L4qzKM).

# Up North Pride In Traverse City

BY AJ TRAGER

**TRAVERSE CITY** – The Second Annual Up North Pride comes to Traverse City for a week of LGBT-centric events.

Up North Pride and The Michael Chetcuti Foundation will host Up North Pride Week beginning June 22 leading up to a Visibility Stroll June 27 at noon.

"This coming June brings high expectations for our state and our Northern Michigan community as the highest court deliberates the monumental decision of marriage equality," Up North Pride Co-Chair Marta Turnbull said. "Our grand marshals demonstrate 'Up North Pride' and LGBT advocacy on different stages, and their commitment to enriching culture and community in Northern Michigan inspires us."

Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. June 22 with a Coming Out Over Coffee event of sharing stories of coming-out with Windfire Youth Group and Brew Coffee House in Downtown Traverse City.

HereSay Storytelling, a monthly storytelling event, will host an LGBT coming-out event beginning at 7 p.m. June 22, where participants can share their coming-out stories with LGBT youth in a round table, open environment.

A sign making party for the June 27 Visibility Stroll will be held at the Rare Bird Brewery at 7 p.m. on June 23. Materials to make the signs will be provided. All materials were donated by Walmart of Traverse City.

At 6 p.m. June 24, the northern Michigan LGBT community is encouraged to grab a bike and enjoy fresh air with a family-friendly bike ride tour around Traverse City beginning

at McLain Cycle & Fitness. Then at 10 p.m., Side Traxx will host an evening of karaoke, a local Wednesday tradition, located at 520 Franklin St.

A special screening of "Milk" will be hosted at 6 p.m. June 25 at the Traverse City State Theatre, 233 E. Front St., followed by a Q&A with panelists: City Commissioner Jim Carruthers and founder of the Michael Chetcuti Foundation, Michael Chetcuti.

A weekend kickoff event will be held at the local food truck hang out, The Little Fleet, located at 448 E. Front St., Traverse City.

Saturday events will begin with a noon introduction to Grand Marshals Michael Chetcuti and his partner Kyle Evans of Royal Oak and Mario Batali and his wife Susi Cahn followed by a Visibility Stroll down Front Street at 1 p.m. starting at The Little Fleet. Participants will return to The Little Fleet for entertainment and speakers including Jay Kaplan, ACLU's LGBT Legal Project staff attorney; Char Davenport, transgender activist and professor at Saginaw Valley State University; and Jim Carruthers, Traverse City commissioner and LGBT activist.

An after-party Drag Show will be hosted at Side Traxx beginning at 9 p.m. followed by dancing and LGBT entertainment.

"There is a rich history of Gay Pride Celebrations here in Traverse City and we welcome all LGBT people of Michigan and the Midwest to join us in our celebration," said Michael Trudeau, member of the Pride planning committee.

Visit [www.upnorthpride.com](http://www.upnorthpride.com) for more information.

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THE REFRAMING OF

# Adam Lambert

## Singer On His 'Outlandish' Past, Lack Of LGBT Pop Stars & Dating Problems

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**S**tripped of that glossy sheen, those painted nails and the purple mane that he famously flaunted on his 2009 post-"American Idol" debut, "For Your Entertainment," Adam Lambert's latest album cover isn't even in color. His hair still reaches the same towering heights as his voice on "The Original High," but otherwise, he's unadorned.

The glam is gone.

In our recent interview, the "Idol" alum comes clean about how a long period of "overcompensation" – yes, the outfits – led him to the latest chapter in his life.

**People are calling "The Original High" a reinvention. Is that how you see it?**

It's not the most far off thing. I consider it more like a "reframing." I feel like it's still me at the heart of it. It's still my voice, but a little more grown up, and I feel like the sonic frame around the vocals is something new.

**Why tweak your sound?**

Because repeating myself would be sacrilege. I will not repeat myself. But I don't know – something new. I wanted

to do something fresh, and I wanted to do something that sounded like my life, and this is the kind of music that I listen to.

**Do your famously passionate fans add pressure to the creative process?**

Because my fans are so loyal and loving, and they're so passionate about all the things that I do, I think that they recognize that if it's something I believe in that's exciting, they get excited by that. I always think about the fans, but with this album, more than ever, I've gone inward and wanted to make music that I have some integrity with, that meant something to me.

**Why at this point in your career?**

It's time. It was time to make a shift, to do something a little different. I went through a lot of changes last year. I ended up leaving my first label (RCA Records), and I had to change management at the end of my last album; it was just time for something fresh. I just got off the tour with Queen, which was amazing for me and felt really good, and it gave me a lot of confidence and it made me not so scared about everything. It gave me a sense of career security in a way that I haven't felt before.

**What were you scared of? You've clearly never had trouble being yourself.**

Over the last five years, right after "Idol," I think there was a certain amount of overcompensation in certain ways. I was dressing really outlandishly, and it was a lot of fun and it's definitely a part of who I am to wanna play dress up, but I think it got to a point where I was hiding behind it a bit. Behind all of that, all of *everything*. It was like a preemptive defense mechanism. It's like the kid who goes to high school dressed goth and he's actually not into the devil at all but doesn't wanna be bothered by anybody. (Laughs) I don't think I realized it at the time, but I can see this in hindsight now. At the time I thought, "This is who I am; this is what I do," and now it just feels like I'm in a new place in my life. I've grown up and evolved and I'm in a new place, and the album – the subject matter and the sound – reflect that.

**When it comes to LGBT artists, you really helped pave the way. These days, how welcoming do you think the music industry is to queer artists?**

I think things are definitely going in the right direction. I just wanna see more! The great thing about having more and more artists who identify as queer is it normalizes it so the media can't sensationalize it as an idea. In the past, I felt the media painted me as someone who's super hypersexual and someone who only wants to talk about his orientation. While I'm very comfortable doing that, I have a lot more to talk about in reality. So, it's been interesting. But the more of us that are out there that provide some diversity, who can show different types of gay artists, it'll make it so it's not as much of a big deal. It'll be an afterthought. We'll get to move toward a post-gay presence.

**Hearing your collaboration with Tove Lo on "Rumors" on this album got me thinking: What do you think of doing a love song with another gay male artist, like Sam Smith or Jake Shears?**

It's certainly possible, yeah. With "Rumors," it's funny; you can listen to that and go, "Oh, it's like a romantic duet," but before we wrote it we were talking about being an artist in the industry and having to maintain a personal life, and how it's a little tricky and how it's not always easy to balance the two. So, that's what we were singing about; it doesn't necessarily mean we're singing to *each other* – it just means we're singing about this thing together. But yeah, a duet with a guy – who knows, it could happen!

**It should happen.**

You *have* to carry the flag! (Laughs)

**Right?! Isn't that what we've been saying since the beginning of your career?**

It's definitely been interesting. *Really* interesting. When I see that there can be a

ripple effect of positivity and change and helping people just because I identify as one thing or another, and I'm OK to talk about it, that's amazing. It's amazing that it takes that little to make that much of an impact.

**"American Idol" wraps next year. In your opinion, what happened to the show? Why haven't we seen another Kelly or Carrie or Adam in recent years?**

I'm not totally sure about that, but I do know that when the show first started it was a time in America when we needed something like that. I mean, 9/11 had just happened, so our country was looking for something to believe in. Not that "American Idol" healed us over 9/11 by itself, but it definitely reflected what we wanted from our entertainment at the time. It gave people hope that, hey, you can be from anywhere and you can have this dream and it can come true, and it was really positive in that regard.

It also came at a time when the music industry was really suffering. I mean, we had all the pirating that was going on; all of a sudden the Internet had taken the rug out from underneath the record companies, and they were looking for an answer. All of a sudden we're giving so much power to the people. That was really impressive, because up until that point the labels really held the strings and decided what the public was going to consume.

**Mariah Carey recently called "American Idol" "fake" and had some pointed words for the show. As a former contestant on the show, how did you feel about what she said? Did "American Idol" ever feel "fake" to you?**

It's a TV show. I didn't feel like it was fake at all. I knew what the concept was. Personally, if you're blindsided by what "American Idol" is, then you weren't paying attention. It's not that difficult to know what you're getting yourself into. That's why I auditioned; I knew what I was getting myself into.

Essentially, it's a strategy for a contestant. It is about talent and it is about being a good performer, but you also have to put some thought into the songs you're picking. I put some thought into it, and that's partially why I think I did well. Picking a genre, picking songs that work for you, picking songs where you won't be compared. For me, I was picking songs that are more obscure or doing them a different way.

**You were crafty about it.**

I'm crafty, yeah! I try to be crafty. (Laughs) And I think for the judges it's a different game than it is for the contestants, obviously, and things shifted a bit when the show wanted to focus on the judges more than the contestants.

See Adam Lambert, page 20



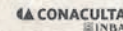
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### ► Adam Lambert

Continued from p. 19

**When we chatted in 2012, you told me a Glambert sent you a urethra rod. What's the craziest thing you've ever done for an artist you were a fan of?**

I've never done anything like that! That was so weird when that happened. I didn't even know what that was. Like, "what the hell is this thing?" Then I looked it up and went "whaaaaat?" I remember saying, "That's a thing? People do that?!"

I have to say, I've never been a super fanatical fan of anybody. I've definitely been a fan. I mean, my fans have called me out before, being like, "Oh, you're fan-boying about so-and-so," and it's just because I said on Twitter, "Oh, you sound great on this song," so I guess that's being a fan!

**How often do Glamberts stop you on the street?**

It happens occasionally. Maybe not so much on the street... (laughs) I know that's just an expression.

**Yes, literally in the street, in front of a car.**

(Laughs) "Stop! Don't!"

**I sourced a few questions out to your biggest fans, so from here on, these are straight from the Glamberts. First, what is the greatest "Original High" you've ever experienced?**

Standing on stage for the first time and singing. That adrenaline rush you get from that exchange with the audience is like nothing else. It bit me and then that was it. I was toast.

**What do you think about when you go to sleep?**

My brain is crazy. I think a lot, so I think about everything I have to do the next day. Sometimes it's hard for me to fall asleep because of that.

**If you could do something all over again, what would it be?**

I don't really have a lot of regrets, to be honest with you. I guess there have been plenty of times where I'll meet somebody at a bar, or a friend will introduce me to somebody at a party or at dinner, and I don't have good game. I don't think to be outgoing or say the right thing, and then after the fact I'll be like, "Why didn't I just talk to that person? Why didn't I just tell them I thought they were cute?!" I gotta say, sometimes I really don't have very good game.



Photo: David Roemer

**One fan wanted to know if you ever feel uncomfortable watching what's said about you by the Glamberts on Twitter.**

I don't think "uncomfortable" is the right word, but I'm not always the best at taking a compliment. I'm pretty hard on myself and sarcastic about things, so it's always flattering, but it makes me feel like, "Ehh, let's talk about something else."

**What's the first thing that attracts you to a man you're interested in?**

Charm. I think charm is an amazing thing because it can make them more attractive than they are – or, without it, it can make them less attractive. I think that's something that's developed as I've gotten older. Obviously, I have my set of physical things that I like, but if somebody's a dud and they have no personality then it all goes out the window. Charm and personality are key.

**What's one question you're glad you've never had to answer?**

(Laughs) I think I've had to answer every fucking thing you can think of!

*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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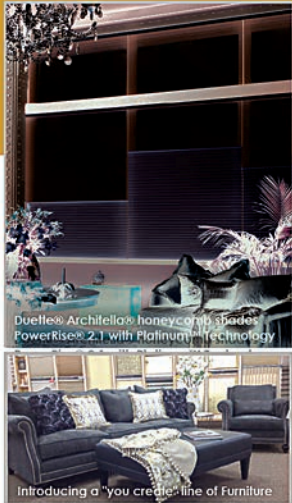
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# Cult LGBT Figures Talk Comedy, Politics In Ann Arbor

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The Blind Pig, Ann Arbor's live music venue known for featuring everything from "nerd rock" to indie rap, recently played host to the comedy/music act of "Randy and Mr. Lahey LIVE" from the cult Canadian comedy, "Trailer Park Boys."

"Trailer Park Boys" is a mockumentary that's been around in various forms since 2001, most recently with its newly filmed seasons specifically for Netflix. The show follows a motley crew of trailer park residents, ranging from the central characters of Ricky, Julian and Bubbles – men who frequently end up in jail for their failed "get rich quick" schemes – to the characters of J-Roc (an aspiring rapper), Sarah (a redhead who serves as the park's moral compass) and Corey, Trevor and Jacob (the "dumb" park residents who bend to the will of Ricky and Julian). Among this diverse group are the characters of Mr. Jim Lahey and Randy "Bo Bandy," played respectively by John Dunsworth and Patrick Roach.

Dunsworth and Roach acted in their May show completely in character, never once referencing themselves as anything other than "Mr. Lahey" and "Randy." Randy entered the show first, in his requisite khaki pants but also in a white dress shirt. "Take it off!" the crowd yelled, alluding to Randy's almost constant shirtlessness on the show. "Mr. Lahey said I should dress nice for Ann Arbor, since it's a nice town," Randy responded, before more cheers led him to pull off his shirt with the cry, "This is too itchy!" Lahey quickly joined Randy on stage, clad in his standard trailer park "supervisor" uniform.

The pair are known for being same-sex lovers on the show, a fact that is introduced and then treated cavalierly on the show. Their tumultuous relationship was referenced throughout their Ann Arbor performance, including digs at each other for the female characters they've romanced during their relationship breaks (including Randy's dalliance with Donna, played by male actor Leigh MacInnis). "We're both bisexual," Randy noted to the crowd, "which means we'll have sex with anybody." He then grimaced as he looked at the crowd, gesturing to one man in the front of the audience, "Except you -- you look crazy."

The interactive quality of the almost two-hour show continued throughout the night, with audience members being pulled on stage for songs, sales pitches and even back massages. The



John Dunsworth as Mr. Lahey (left) and Patrick Roach as Randy (right).

sales pitches involved the two men sporadically referencing products they were selling during the night. "I have a book of shit poetry for sale – \$30," said Lahey, reading excerpts from the book that involved odes to "shit hawks." "We have a special suit that can make you smoke weed easily," referenced Randy, before Lahey donned the trash-bag like contraption and took a drag from a joint.

LGBT issues were mentioned as well, with professed love for same-sex marriage and support of transgender issues. "For all you LGBT...Q...I..." Lahey drunkenly slurred, adding further letters as he took a swig of Crown Royal he then held up to the crowd. Lahey is known for drunkenness on the show, which was played up with great vigor by Dunsworth. In addition to drinking Crown Royal poured frequently by a Bling Pig bartender, Lahey also drank a beer offered by someone in the audience. Randy – known for his own cheeseburger "addiction" on the television show – referenced his food weakness and even accepted a burger from someone in the crowd. "Oh man, this even has onion straws on it? I can't wait to eat this back at the hotel," he said while inspecting

the sandwich.

Despite the off-color comedy off the show, complete with the infamous swearing of "Trailer Park Boys," Dunsworth's Lahey had plenty of serious comments to interject into the act, particularly about veterans and war. "I think we should send a shit-ton of weed over to ISIS – that would settle them down for sure," he said to audience applause. At other times, Lahey noted, "I think it's ridiculous that veterans are treated the way they are," or raised his glass "to all the men and women sent to these despicable wars." The men even held a Canadian flag with a red marijuana leaf in the place of the famous maple one, urging that flag to fly over a world of "peace and weed."

The men also had a seemingly serious appreciation for Ann Arbor, and other LGBT-friendly cities if it can be inferred from where they played other recent shows (Ferndale, San Francisco and Seattle). Their love for the people and places in the city rang out the show. "This is the cleanest city I've ever seen," Lahey enthused. "I truly love this city."

Check out the movies and complete television series of "Trailer Park Boys" on Netflix.



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# Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

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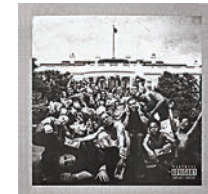
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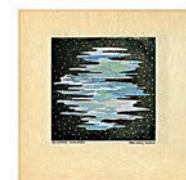
it comes to Our Girl, you take what you can get and just hope and pray it's not another "MDNA." We made it out of the wilderness, then, didn't we? "Rebel Heart" is *not* another "MDNA"; rather, and thankfully, it's the sonic equivalent of Madonna picking herself back up after that Brit Awards fall. She stumbles a bit here, but the difference? Those mishaps are quelled by some of Madge's most innovative, trend-bucking cuts in years. "Living for Love" rouses with "Like a Prayer" realness, "Ghosttown" works itself into a welcome moment of tenderness, and the title track is more in touch with Madonna than Madonna's been in years.



### Kendrick Lamar, 'To Pimp a Butterfly'

Even T. Swift has a thing for Kendrick Lamar, the urban innovator featured on the pop star's

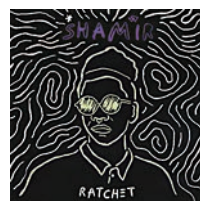
No. 1 "Bad Blood" radio remix. If you, too, have lost yourself in his thought-provoking brilliance, you understand what Taylor sees in him. The musician du jour's "To Pimp a Butterfly" sits impressively outside the box, the accumulation of various genres – spoken word, hip-hop, jazz, funk, etc. – to create a cultural touchstone that grapples with heavy of-the-zeitgeist matters. Big moments abound, but it doesn't get more ambitious than "Mortal Men," a moving 12-minute, posthumous conversation he has with Tupac.



### Susanne Sundfør, 'Ten Love Songs'

Do you know Susanne Sundfør? You don't? You should. The ultra-talented Norwegian

songstress' sixth release is a captivating caper through and through, reveling in brokenhearted synth-pop and orchestral detours that conjure cinematic magic. An ethereal 10-minute behemoth, "Memorial" takes a drum-slapped torch song and caps it with a stunning orchestra outro, a wistful wind-down that lingers even after its last haunting note. Her pop sensibility is equally as sharp on the soulful "Fade Away," an enveloping synth song, and on "Slowly,"



### Shamir, 'Ratchet'

The latest wave of gender-defying youth just got wavier with Shamir, a 20-year-old cutie-patootie from Vegas who's

tearing down rigid archetypes by way of gender ambiguity and a brazen "no fucks to give" attitude. You can read it – "it" being his convention-confronting manifesto – on his Twitter feed, and you can hear it in the spunky nu-disco dreaminess of his criminally catchy throwback debut. "On the Regular" strides with drag-queen fierceness (and cowbells!), boasting a swaggering rap about how, despite his

size ("5-foot-10, about a buck twenty / Skinny as a rod but still won't fuck with me"), he packs a powerful punch. And that's no joke (for further proof, hear the sweetly flowing "Demon"). On the whole, Shamir's "Ratchet" is a potent boundary buster with some of the year's best, most neon-bright beats.



### Madonna, 'Rebel Heart'

Major misfires – oh, religion and sex meet *again?* (*Is she really sampling herself?*)

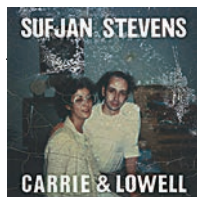
– kept it from breaking into the Essential Madonna Echelon, but these days, when



an evocative, pure gold, '80s-shimmered wallop produced by fellow Norwegian duo Röyksopp. And just when you think Sundfór's achieved Robyn-caliber pop genius, there's the biting "Delirious," which builds into a crushingly brilliant beat after a John Carpenter's "Halloween"-esque preface. It's one genius move among many on "Ten Love Songs."

#### Marina and the Diamonds, 'FROOT'

After record execs tried to turn her into Pop's Next Big Thing – a position, she later confessed, wasn't for her – Welsh singer-songwriter Marina and the Diamonds gets back to basics on "FROOT." Awash in the left-of-center sound that launched her career, "FROOT" feels like an artistic manifestation rather than a business fulfillment. Both musically personal and powerful, it begins with a paean of self-expression that suggests a newfound professional freedom. "I sang a hymn to bring me peace / And then it came, a melody," she sings on "Happy," boldly easing into the album with this raw moment of piano-led minimalism. On "FROOT," it only gets sweeter.



#### Sufjan Stevens, 'Carrie & Lowell'

"You'll never see us again." And just like that, Sufjan Steven rips your heart open with his seventh studio album, a gut-punch of grief-stricken emotions inspired by his

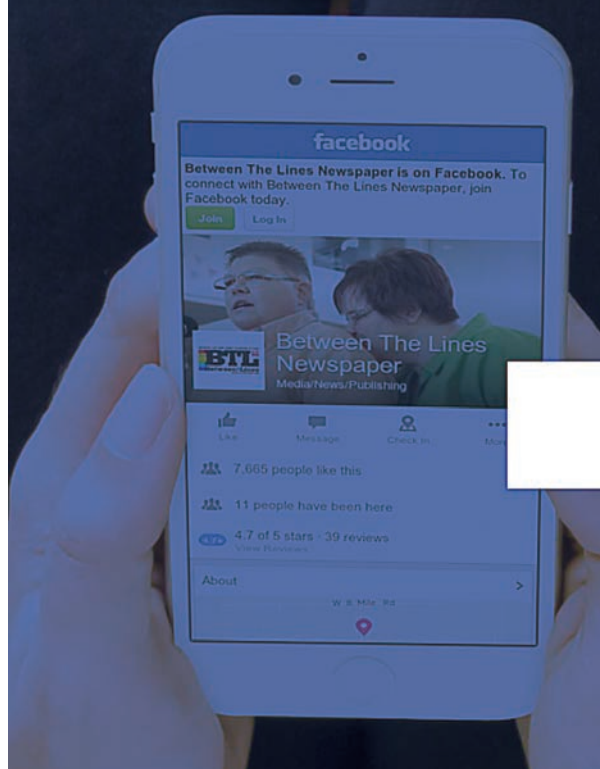
mother's passing. One such blow is "Fourth of July," the kind of personal experience – a play-by-play of a parent's final moments – rarely set to song. And for all its harsh truths, what a beautiful lullaby-like tune it is. That graceful appeal extends throughout Sufjan's wrenchingly stunning tribute to his mother, "Carrie & Lowell." The lulling melodies leave their mark. Sentiments drawn vividly from the past are stark and real and relatable. But there's light in the dark, and by the time he gets to the penultimate "No Shade in the Shadow of the Cross," you'll want to give Sufjan the biggest hug. You'll also need one of your own.



#### Belle and Sebastian, 'Girls in Peacetime Want to Dance'

Girls in peacetime want to dance... and, apparently, so does Belle and Sebastian. "Jump to the beat of the party line," they urge. And we do, of course. On yet another solid release from the always-dependable Glaswegian sextet, they're more "weeee" than twee. Producer Ben H. Allen shimmers their sound while still maintaining the band's trademark melancholy and hopefulness. Escapist vibes run throughout "Girls in Peacetime Want to Dance," as frontman Stuart Murdoch finally addresses their album's motive on Belle's most quintessential track, "Ever Had a Little Faith?," a jangly little daydream: Basically, don't be sad. And, you know, dance.

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# SHOP LGBT

**Puzzle solution on pg. 30**

B	E	B	E	S	C	H	E	D	S	O	N	S
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## Editor's Pick

Nature's Playhouse has begun hosting an LGBT parenting support group. The Ferndale-based organization says the purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to know one another and discuss topics of interest.

Nature's Playhouse is an all-natural play and wellness center for children and parents. Their mission statement notes, "In a world that is filled with noise-filled, over-stimulating

play options for young children, our space offers a return to the play experiences of earlier generations with hand-made, all-natural, open-ended toys that stimulate imagination and creativity, and class offerings based in old world traditions."

The support group meets at 4 p.m. the third Sunday of every month at Nature's Playhouse, 318 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. The group is free, with no registration, and children are welcome. Call 248-955-3219 or visit [www.naturesplayhouse.com](http://www.naturesplayhouse.com) for more information.

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, June 18

**All-New Lexus RC and NX Launch Party** 5 p.m. Raffle prizes, photos, gift bags, complimentary food truck rally and more. Meade Lexus, 28300 Northwestern Highway, **Southfield**. [www.Facebook.com/meadelexus/events](http://www.Facebook.com/meadelexus/events)

### Friday, June 19

**LGBT Dinner** 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. [www.Lahronline.org/](http://www.Lahronline.org/)

**Funk and Soul Dance Party** 7 p.m. Earth quakin, booty shakin vintage Funk and Soul by DJ Jeremy Westover and MC Jack Mercer. Suggested Donation: \$5. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, **Flint**. [office@uuf Flint.org](mailto:office@uuf Flint.org) [www.Uuflint.org](http://www.Uuflint.org)

**Indigo Girls** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$40-50. Ann Arbor Summer Festival, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-2538. [www.Indigogirls.com](http://www.Indigogirls.com)

### Saturday, June 20

**Greater Grapd Rapids Pride Festival** The LGBT Network of West Michigan, **Grand Rapids**. [www.Grlgbt.org](http://www.Grlgbt.org)

**2015 LGBT Older Adult Summit** 9 a.m. LGBT Older Adult Summit, 3408 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**.

**Puttin on the Riz** 1 p.m. Tickets: \$25-90. The Lois Yeagley & Tami Gleason Memorial Golf Outing, 23650 23 Mile Road, **Macomb**. [www.Womenoutandabout.net](http://www.Womenoutandabout.net)

**Pizza Dinner & Bowl Off** 4 p.m. We invite you and your friends to come have a fun day with the Motor City Bears and at the same time help out a few local charities too. You can join us for dinner and/or bowling. There will be Prizes, a Silent Auction, A 50/50 raffle and desserts. Dinner: \$16, Bowling: \$18, Dinner & Bowling combo \$30. 4 p.m. Meet&Greet, 6 p.m. Dinner, 8 p.m. Bowling. Motor City Bears, 32905 Northwestern Highway, **Farmington Hills**. 248-626-2422. [motorcitybears@gmail.com](http://motorcitybears@gmail.com) [www.Motorcitybears.com](http://www.Motorcitybears.com)

**Garden Party** 6 p.m. Tickets: \$15-20. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, **Detroit**. 313-831-1250. [www.Scarabclub.org](http://www.Scarabclub.org)

**Mitten Mavens versus Bath City Roller Girls** 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. [www.Mittenmavens.net](http://www.Mittenmavens.net)

**Loni Love** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15-25. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. [www.Motorcitycasino.com](http://www.Motorcitycasino.com)

### Sunday, June 21

**LGBT Parenting Support Group** 1 a.m. The purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to get to know one another and to discuss topics of interest. Free. Organization Name, 318 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-955-3219. [info@naturesplayhouse.com](mailto:info@naturesplayhouse.com) [www.Naturesplayhouse.com/](http://www.Naturesplayhouse.com/)

**Bisexual Peer Group** 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Sunday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. [paylor9@icloud.com](mailto:paylor9@icloud.com) [Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/](http://Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/)

### Tuesday, June 23

**Saginaw Valley LGBT Pride Awards Banquet** Perceptions, 120 Ezra Rust Ave., **Saginaw**. [www.Equalitymi.org](http://www.Equalitymi.org)

### Wednesday, June 24

**Free to be Me Group** 12:30 p.m. This is a support group for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning. The Jewish Gay Network of Michigan (JGN), 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5467. [www.Jgnmi.org](http://www.Jgnmi.org)

**Lansing Capital Roller Derby Summer Boot Camp** 6:30 p.m. Six week, 12 session Roller Derby basic skills training boot camp. \$60 due day 1 of camp, accepting cash or check. Open to both men and women. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **East Lansing**. [lcrdbbootcamp@mittenmavens.net](mailto:lcrdbbootcamp@mittenmavens.net) [www.Mittenmavens.net/join/bootcamp](http://www.Mittenmavens.net/join/bootcamp)

### Thursday, June 25

**Re-imagining Gender** 15 promising artists take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender, 204 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-9537. [schwarde@umich.edu](mailto:schwarde@umich.edu) [www.lrvwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html](http://www.lrvwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html)

### Saturday, June 27

**Holland Area Pride** Featuring: Amy Armstrong & Freddy Allen, comedians Poppy Champlin and Scott Duff, Nobody's Darlin', Maciek the Magician, Motif, MSU Accafellas and a drag show. Holland Pride, **Holland**. [www.Hollandareapride.com](http://www.Hollandareapride.com)

**Men's Mini Relationship Skills Class** 10 a.m. \$20. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.Goaffirmations.org](http://www.Goaffirmations.org)

**Flint Pride in the Park** Suggested donation: \$5. Flint Pride in the Park, **Flint**. 810-232-0888. [tspringer@wellnessaids.org](mailto:tspringer@wellnessaids.org)

**MIC 8th Annual Boat Cruise and Tea Dance** 1 p.m. 21+. Tickets: \$25. Motown Invitational Classic, Jefferson Ave./ Joseph Campau St., **Detroit**. 313-727-4101. [www.Mictournament.org](http://www.Mictournament.org)

**Alcohol Abuse Weekly Therapy Group** 2 p.m. The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health, 25600 Woodward Ave., Ste. 215, **Royal Oak**. 248-399-7447. [officemgr@crsh.com](mailto:officemgr@crsh.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**Chene Park Ampitheater** "Jazzy Nights". Chene Park Ampitheater, 2600 Atwater, **Detroit**. May 6 - Aug. 12. 313-393-7128. [www.Cheneparkdetroit.com](http://www.Cheneparkdetroit.com)

**Chene Park Ampitheater** "The Gypsy Kings". Chene Park Ampitheater, 2600 Atwater, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 19. 313-393-7128. [www.Cheneparkdetroit.com](http://www.Cheneparkdetroit.com)

**Quicken Loans** "Free Summer in the Parks" Running through Sept. 2, will be held in: Campus Martius/Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus and Paradise Valley. Four historic parks, **Detroit**. June 4 - Sep. 2.

**Royal Oak Music Theatre** "Rodrigo Y Gabriela". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. June 23. 248-399-2980. [www.Romtlive.com](http://www.Romtlive.com)

**The Acorn Theater** "Women Who Rock!". The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 19. 269-756-3879. [www.Acorntheater.com](http://www.Acorntheater.com)

**The Ark** "Asleep at the Wheel" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 22. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

**The Ark** "Martha Davis & The Motels" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. June 19. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)



## Editor's Pick

The Lois Yeagley & Tami Gleason Memorial Golf Outing, "Puttin' on the Ritz," will be held this Saturday, June 20. The event features "goody bags," lunch, dinner, raffles, prizes, music and dancing, shotgun golf and more.

The Godmothers, who are presenting the event, have been serving the community and changing lives since 1999. Working directly with children and women's organizations to local animal rescues, the group supports many charities.

Tickets for the event range from \$25 just for dinner or \$90 for the event, featuring 18 holes with a cart. The event begins at 1 p.m. with lunch, with the shotgun starting at 2 p.m. and dinner from 7 to 8 p.m. The event will be held at Bello Woods Golf Course, 23650 23 Mile Road, Macomb. For more information, call Vicky at 248-346-8960 or visit [www.womenoutandabout.net](http://www.womenoutandabout.net).

**The Ark** "Olivia Chaney" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 21. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Concert for Lost Voices" Tickets: \$25-50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 18. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Hayes Carll" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 20. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**Unlimited Sky Production** "Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music Series" Every Wednesday Night Jazz & Soul Music Series featuring some of the best live music in Michigan. Cover: \$5. Harbor House, 440 Clinton, Detroit. Jan. 21 - June 24. 3139679900. www.Harborhousemi.com

## Festivals

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival** "Ann Arbor Summer Festival" A variety of entertainment, themes and more throughout the festival. Various, Ann Arbor. June 13 - July 5. www.A2sf.org

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival** "Golden Dragon Acrobats" Tickets: \$28-46. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. June 20 - June 21. 734-764-2538. www.A2sf.org

## THEATER

**2AZ** The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 29. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

**A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur** Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 28. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

**Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein** Through June 27. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/sct

**Always a Bridesmaid** The Dio - Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. June 18 - Aug. 2. 517-672-6009. www.diotheatre.com

**Cabaret** Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. June 26 - July 12. 269-857-2399. www.Sc4a.org

**Cabaret** 358 S. Water St., Marine City. Through June 28. 810-278-1749. www.riverbanktheatre.com

**Clybourne Park** Two Muses Theatre, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through June 21. 248-850-9919. www.twomuses theatre.org

**Dogfight** Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through June 21. 269-343-2727. www.farmersalleytheatre.com

**Fathers & Figures** Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. 8 p.m. June 19. 313-744-6037. www.secretstorytellers.org

**Gay Play Series** The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. June 19 - June 29. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

**Grounded** The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through June 28. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

**Jungle ARRGH the Way! - A Christmas Pirate Adventure** A mysterious message left in the crow's nest of their ship brings Captain Braid Beard and his pirate mates back to North Beach to seek out young Jeremy Jacob to help solve a riddle and find the Christmas treasure. Tickets: \$15-24. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. June 17 - Aug. 7. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

**Kolobok** Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River

Ave., Detroit. Through June 27. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

**Les Miserables** Follow the journey of convict Jean Valjean who vows to redeem himself despite the obstacles that arise. Tickets: \$15-30. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through June 30. 616-395-7890. www.hope.edu/hsrt

**Mary Poppins** Mary Poppins is the practically perfect nanny who helps us learn to take our medicine with a spoonful of sugar, find the silver lining in every situation, and realize that sometimes we should just use the winds of change to go fly a kite. Tickets: \$37. Barn Theatre, 13351 West M-96, Augusta. June 16 - June 28. 269-731-4121. www.barntheatreschool.com

**Open Table Series** Tickets: Free. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. June 17 - June 24. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

**Other Desert Cities** Tickets: \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 11. 734-663-0681. www.pntheatre.org

**Outside Mullingar** Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through June 21. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.com

**Pippin** The story of a young prince on a death-defying journey to find meaning in his existence. Tickets: \$39-95. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through June 21. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

**Precious Little** The unique story of a woman confronting a personal crisis and the part a gorilla in the zoo and an elderly woman play in offering her comfort. Tickets: \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through June 28. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

**South Pacific** From the hauntingly beautiful first three notes of "Bali Hai" to the romance of "Some Enchanted Evening," it's no surprise that this Rodgers & Hammerstein favorite is one of the greatest Broadway musicals of all time. Tickets: \$28-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through July 3. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

**Thaddeus and Tila (A Crane and Frog Tale)** A teenage crane with poor eyesight crashes into Thaddeus' pond, and a friendship quickly blossoms when he saves her life. Tickets: \$5-8. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. June 18 - June 27. 313-577-2972. www.wsushows.com

**The Bikinis, A New Musical Beach Party** In 1964, four friends formed a band and won their local talent contest on the Jersey Shore. Now, 35 years later, the girls are back together one more time. Tickets: \$26-41. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 21. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

**The Book of Liz** Master storyteller David Sedaris and his comedic genius sister Amy tell the story of cheese ball-maker Liz. Tickets: Free. Summer Circle Theatre, Summer Circle Courtyard, Auditorium Road between the Auditorium Building and the Kresge Art Center on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing. June 17 - June 20. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu/sct

**The Importance of Being Earnest** Oscar Wilde's classic tale features an all-male cast and is set in the Deep South (Atlanta and Willacoochie, to be exact), where it takes you on a thrill ride of side splitting laughter and a journey from the city to the country - quite literally. Tickets: \$10 in advance only. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream's Summer Home, 20937 John R., Hazel Park. June 14 - July 7. www.slipstreamti.com

**The Winter's Tale** King Leontes of Sicilia brings tragedy on his family when he accuses his wife of infidelity with his best friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia. Tickets: \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company, Dog Story Theater, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. June 19 - June 28. 616-425-9234. www.pcshakespeare.com

**Women and Wallace** Tickets for all shows \$12. Box office opens 45m before show time. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 26 - June 28. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org/shows/women-and-wallace-a-studio-series-production

**White Ash Falling 9/11** Three actors prepare for an off-Broadway production about the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through June 28. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

## ART 'N' AROUND

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Susan Aaron-Taylor: Journeyming". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "The Essential Self: Meditations on the Politics of Identity". Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 12 - July 18. 313-832-8540. www.Detroitartistsmarket.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Beauty, Passion and Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 17 - Aug. 16. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

**MOCAD** "The Obama Paintings and the Lincoln Monument". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 15 - Aug. 2. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Gregory Coates: Minutes". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 23.

**Riverside Arts Center Gallery** "Light, Bronze and Pigment". Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. June 4 - June 27. 734-483-7345. www.Riversidearts.org

**robert kidd gallery** "Kikuo Saito". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. May 29 - July 1. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

**The Friends of Modern Art** "Flint Art Fair". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. June 21 - June 21. 810-234-1695. www.Flintartfair.org

**The Scarab Club** "Third Thursday". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. March 19 - Aug. 20. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

**The Scarab Club** "2015 Blooms, Bugs, Beasts Exhibition". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 20 - June 27. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

**UMMA** "Hana Hamplova: Meditations on Paper". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 21 - Aug. 9. 734-763-4186. www.Umma.umich.edu

**University of Michigan, Inst. for Research on Women and Gender** "Re-imaging Gender" 15 promising artists take on one of the thorniest challenges facing contemporary art: how to render the modern spectrum of gender, going beyond the simple male/female binary to include a wide variety of identities and sexualities. Lane Hall, 204 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 15 - June 26. 734-764-9537. www.Irwg.research.umich.edu/events/exhibitions.html

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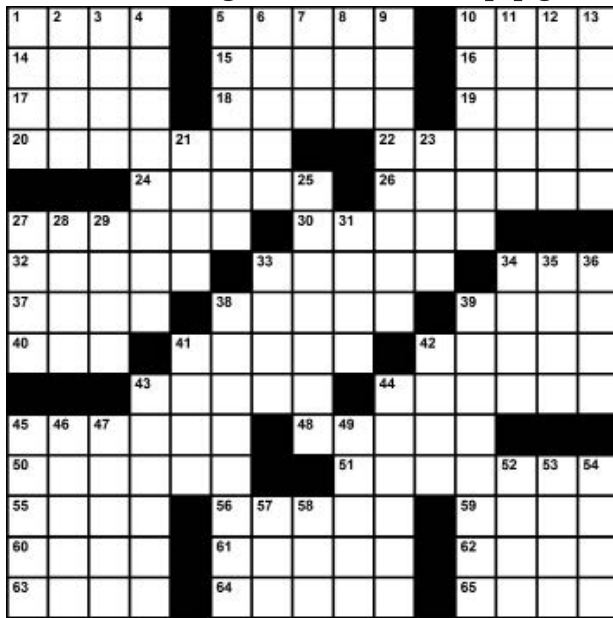
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Creative Design: DeveryDesign@gmail.com

# Q Puzzle

## Where Gay Means Happy



### Across

- 1 Neuwirth of "Chicago"
- 5 IRS form
- 10 Mama's boys
- 14 Top
- 15 "Love Affair" costar Dunne
- 16 "\_\_\_ first you don't ..."

- 17 Like a stereotypical wrist
- 18 Salami you can put in your hero
- 19 Katharine's "Butch Cassidy" role
- 20 Nation where gay men are the happiest, per a Planet Romeo survey
- 22 2nd happiest nation for gay men
- 24 Buckeye State sch.
- 26 Seasonal songs

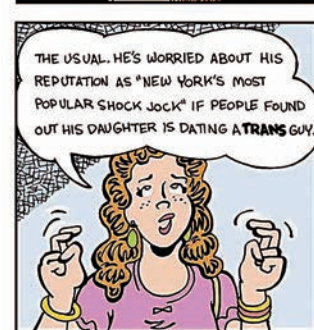
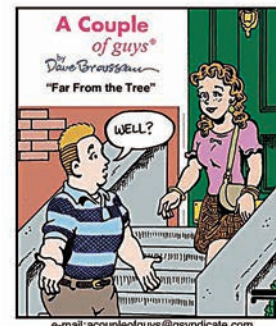
### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ Hai"
- 2 Really big tale
- 3 Sammy Davis Jr.'s "I've Gotta \_\_\_"
- 4 Blew, big time
- 5 Register
- 6 Set of beliefs
- 7 Cock's mate

- 27 4th happiest nation for gay men
- 30 Rope at a gay rodeo
- 32 It helps you get to advocate.com
- 33 \_\_\_ Doctor (law degree)
- 34 Semen may be evidence on this program
- 37 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 38 Mullally of "Will & Grace"
- 39 Man in a skirt, perhaps
- 40 Porter's "\_\_\_ Out of Town"
- 41 Bone just over a foot
- 42 Carpet abrasions
- 43 Judy Reyes role on "Scrubs"
- 44 6th happiest nation for gay men
- 45 "For sure?"
- 48 Sentence units
- 50 7th happiest nation for gay men
- 51 3rd happiest nation for gay men
- 55 Seedless plant
- 56 Base neutralizers
- 59 Muscle Marys pump it
- 60 Fairy tale prince waiting to be kissed
- 61 Conductor Boulanger
- 62 Q to a Scrabble player
- 63 They come out in the lumber yard
- 64 Less sweet
- 65 In the pink

- 8 Bowie collaborator Brian
- 9 Clark Kent portrayer on TV
- 10 S, in communications
- 11 "A Tale \_\_\_ Cities"
- 12 Concerning one's coming out?
- 13 Chooses not to come
- 21 Throat-clearing sound
- 23 Mouthful for a stallion
- 25 5th happiest nation for gay men
- 27 West Hollywood pollution
- 28 Didn't go straight
- 29 Cut
- 31 Gershwin and Levin
- 33 Harden
- 34 Italian honey
- 35 Tickle pink
- 36 Ingrid's role in "Casablanca"
- 38 State that could describe the countries in this puzzle's theme?
- 39 Maker of things you shoot off
- 41 Maupin story of the city
- 42 Country dance spot
- 43 Bell bongos
- 44 Subject of pointed rebuke?
- 45 Guitar motifs from Etheridge
- 46 Former NFL player Tuao
- 47 Straight as an \_\_\_
- 49 "Frasier" pup
- 52 Diva's piece
- 53 Drum sound
- 54 Trick joint, maybe
- 57 The Batmobile, e.g.
- 58 "The Last King of Scotland" character

Solution on pg. 28



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Jane Lynch is an 'Angel From Hell'

There was never a question in our minds that after "Glee" ended, its breakout star, Jane Lynch, would fly even higher than before. So it's barely news – even though it's totally breaking news – that you'll be seeing her again on the small screen this fall in "Angel From Hell." The sitcom stars Maggie Lawson as a doctor with a "perfect" life, but whose existence nevertheless endures the arrival of Lynch, her guardian angel. Lawson, of course, assumes that new "friend" is a drunken lunatic, but Lynch assures her that she is, in fact, a guardian angel. And then every warning the erstwhile Sue Sylvester delivers comes true. The single-camera series co-stars Kevin Pollak and Kyle Bornheimer and will arrive at CBS this November, just in time for you to be really thankful for it.

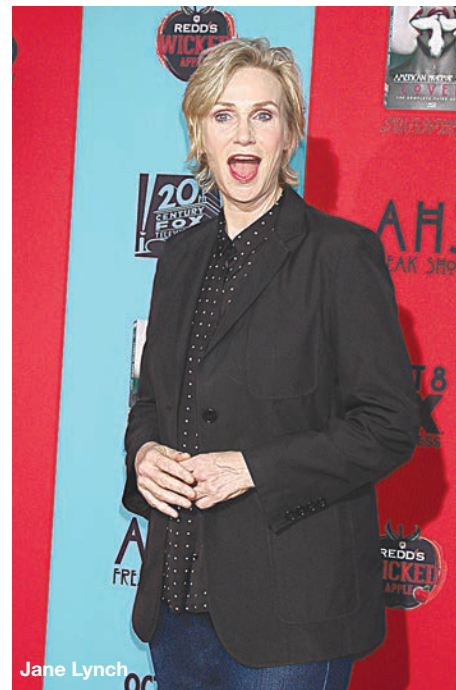
## The Abbey is coming to TV. No, not the one at Downton.

There is a gay bar in West Hollywood that is very large and very popular. It's called The Abbey. It sits right next to Pump, the location of the reality series "Vanderpump Rules." Somebody put 2+2 together and decided to

give The Abbey its own reality series, too. Lucky, lucky all of us who like to watch TV shows about bickering bartenders. Not that The Abbey doesn't deserve some sort of recognition: It was voted two-time winner of Logo's "Best Gay Bar in The World" award, an honor that carries weight throughout the global population of tipsy gays. So it was time for the place to be the star of its own show. And to that end, TV-ready staff is being auditioned to pretend to work there as hard as the aspiring actors who already work there. See how entertainment works? No shoot dates yet. No network announced yet. But if the final product can approach even half of the pleasure that "The A-List New York" was (Miss you Rodney. So much.) then it's going to be must-watch television.

## Ellen Page and Allison Janney re-team for 'Tallulah'

"Orange is The New Black" writer Sian Heder is directing her first feature, "Tallulah," and the main cast has known each other for a minute. Ellen Page (the upcoming, long-awaited "Freeheld") and Allison Janney (CBS's "Mom") have already worked together in "Juno" and in Lynn Shelton's indie "Touchy Feely," but they'll soon team up for Heder's dramatic comedy about three women and a



Jane Lynch

baby that, depending on which plot synopsis you're reading, is either being kidnapped from or rescued by a babysitter and a Beverly Hills housewife. Maybe it's all of those things at once, we're not sure, but we trust the comedic power from this creative team. The project is currently in the pre-production stage, so we don't even know the identity of the third lead yet. Updates as they surface.

## The lesbian movie of the 'Summer' can't get here soon enough

The fact is that "The Summer of Sangaile" may not get to you before the end of summer. It's a small film. It's a small film from Lithuania. It's a small film from Lithuania that's still on the film festival circuit and will continue on that course until at least August. But it's one you'll want to see when you get your chance. That's because it's yet another sensitive, emotional, drama about two teenage girls (newcomers Aiste Dirziute and Julija Steponaityte) who fall into a swooning, mutually bolstering romance, and it's good. It's very, very good. It follows in the tradition of "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls In Love" and "My Summer of Love" and "Show Me Love," and it's already getting rave reviews from critics and audiences everywhere it screens. And now you know what your most anticipated lesbian-centric film of the year is going to be. (That is, unless you've not yet acquainted yourself with the one named for a man but that's all about Emperor Furiosa). For the rest of you, we guess you'll just have to go watch "Entourage" over and over. Sorry.

Romeo San Vicente is ready for his first lesbian fling. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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